THE

SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN.

VOL. I. NEW YORK, OCTOBER 1, 1864. No. 23.

CONTENTS.

Page.

THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN THE SHENANDOAH 705
SHERIDAN'S ARMY 706
WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON THE JAMES RIVER 710
REPORTS—
Western Department 714
Doings at the Front 712
AID TO THE UNION PRISONERS IN CHARLESTON 718
THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT 719
SCENES AMONG THE WOUNDED 721
THE SANITARY AND CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS .. 721
THE HOSPITAL TRAIN 722
POETRY—
Somebody's Darling 724
Taps 724
A SOLDIER'S LETTER 724
TREATMENT OF OUR PRISONERS BY THE REBEL AUTHORITIES 725

THE SANITARY COMMISSION BULLETIN *is published on the first and fifteenth of every month, and as it has a circulation, gratuitous or other, of above* 14,000 *copies, it offers an unusually valuable medium for advertising.*

All communications must be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 823 *Broadway, and must be authenticated by the names and addresses of the writers.*

As the continuance of the publication of the BULLETIN *is uncertain, depending on that of the war, and on the resources of the U. S. Sanitary Commission—the Standing Committee feels a certain degree of reluctance to solicit subscriptions for it—and thereby to pledge the Commission to its issue for a definite period.*

The Committee understand, however, that some of their friends to whom it is now sent gratuitously, express a wish to pay for it, and they therefore give notice that the sum of two dollars, remitted to the Treasurer, (G. T. STRONG, 68 *Wall Street, or No.* 823 *Broadway, New York,) will secure its being sent to such contributor during the remainder of the current year, unless its publication be sooner discontinued.*

THE SANITARY COMMISSION IN THE SHENANDOAH.

The Sanitary Commission has long made Harper's Ferry a centre of operations. Though the late important battle of the Opequan was unannounced, Col. Muhlech, in charge of the Commission's work at that point and vicinity, including Cumberland, Martinsburg, and Winchester, Va., was promptly on the field of battle with his corps of assistants and stores, which were most welcome to the men and the Medical Department. The store-house at Harper's Ferry was quickly emptied, but the second day after the battle a fresh supply of articles most needed arrived from Baltimore, where they had been stored in anticipation of such a call. The distance from the Ferry to Winchester, where the wounded were gathered, is thirty-six miles, without rail communication, and the country infested with guerrillas. Supplies were immediately pushed forward in wagons under the protection of a cavalry escort. Thirteen four-horse army wagons are used in this work, with the occasional addition of wagons and ambulances, generously provided by the military authorities. These wagon-trains are run day and night, and thus far without loss. For aid and protection in this difficult part of the work the Commission is greatly indebted to General Stevenson, in command at Harper's Ferry, and Col. Edwards, Thirty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, commanding post at Winchester.

On the day of the battle Dr. J. F. Jenkins, the General Secretary, with Mr. F. N. Knapp, Associate Secretary, and Mr. John S. Blatchford, of Boston, started for the field, and with Col. Muhlech they rap-

idly effected a thorough organization of the work, commensurate with an emergency so great. It may be truly said that the Commission has never used its resources with more efficiency and beneficent result than at this time, and the good work daily goes on—thanks to a generous public whose gifts it dispenses.

Agents have been rapidly sent forward from this city and from Philadelphia, and there is now on the ground a working force of about forty men.

Winchester is well nigh one vast hospital, forty (40) buildings being used for their purpose. Outside the town the new camp hospital, called the Sheridan, is fast organizing, to which the wounded will soon be transferred. In connection with this a Diet Kitchen has been established, by the Commission, and placed under the charge of Miss Harris. The town hospitals have been divided into seven districts, and a portion of the Commission's work in these has been assigned to seven most estimable Union ladies, who will be assisted by others, also residents of the town. Let these patriotic and Christian ladies be remembered! Their kind deeds have gladdened many of our weary and sick and wounded men in other campaigns, and their devotion is limited only by lack of resources.

We add the names of those who are acting as Agents for the Commission:

Mrs. Trippe, Miss Allie Sharp, Miss Hattie Griffith, Miss Sallie Diffenderfer, Miss Martha L. Sidwell, Miss Mattie Shumate, Miss Annie Diffenderfer.

At the hospital of Confederate wounded, in charge of their own surgeons, Mrs. Williams, of Winchester, has been appointed agent, being peculiarly fitted for this difficult position. A certain portion of the stores is consigned to her for distribution. The seriously wounded will be retained in the General Hospital instead of being transported to distant places at the risk of life. For this merciful decision we are indebted to Dr. Brinton, the excellent Medical Director.

The following list will partially indicate the variety and quantities of articles needed at such crises of a campaign, being those forwarded from Baltimore up to September 28, and not including the goods in store at Harper's Ferry, at the beginning of the battle, which amounted to about five wagon loads. The value is about $40,000:

3,825 wool shirts.
3,556 wool drawers.
4,380 handkerchiefs.
3,064 pairs wool socks.
500 blankets.
500 quilts.
896 bed sacks.
6,062 cushions.
618 pillow ticks.
680 pillows.
1,024 pillow cases.
1,190 cotton drawers.
516 cotton shirts.
480 pairs slippers.
559 sheets.
1 200 pairs cotton socks.
45 pieces mosquito netting.
15 pieces oil silk.
40 bbls. crackers.
540 lbs dessicated eggs.
960 lbs. roast beef.
3,816 lbs. condensed milk.
1,316 lbs. beef stock.
2,195 lbs. coffee.
1,852 lbs. sugar.
206 lbs. tea.
384 lbs. peaches.
10 bbls. eggs.
22 boxes lemons.
3,560 lbs chocolate.
8 bbls. potatoes.
1 bbl. vinegar.
157 bbls. dried apples.
320 lbs. corn starch.
384 lbs. farina.
60 lbs. canned chicken.
47 lbs. butter.
2,093 bottles whisky.
600 bottles cherry wine.
78 galls. pickles.
256 bot's blackberry brandy.
888 bottles Jamaica ginger.
12 bottles alcohol.
12 bottles Jamaica rum.
170 lbs. candles.
430 lbs. soap.
1,204 tin cups.
260 bed-pans.
50 feeding cups.
240 spit-cups.
509 tin plates.
154 tin basins.
108 lanterns.
12 doz. candlesticks.
150 headrests.
12 bed tables.
47,000 envelopes.
50 reams note paper.
179 doz. chewing tobacco.
179 doz. smoking tobacco.
10 hhds. ice.
1,101 pairs crutches.
240 prs. shoes.
25 lbs. sponges.
775 towels.
96 lbs canned tomatoes.
1,000 fans.
200 lbs. maizena.
5 galls. tamarinds.
pails, spoons, knives and forks, brooms, washboards, washtubs, baskets, chisels, tacks, hatchets, axes, saws, hammers, corkscrews, can-openers, lamps, kettles, stoves, oil, pans, boilers, blank-books, mucilage, penholders, pens, lead pencils, ink, corn meal, lint, adhesive plaster, table salt, oats, hay, reading matter, arm slings, old linen, jelly, ale, &c.

SHERIDAN'S ARMY.

HARPER'S FERRY, VA., *September* 24, 1864.

To WM. A. HOVEY,
Assistant to Associate Secretary, etc.:

DEAR SIR—At this moment I find it an absolute impossibility to give you a detailed account of the Sanitary work in this Department for the week ending this day. I will, therefore, confine myself to a rough outline, reserving for an early day a more complete report.

The news of the battle on the Opequan Creek reached us in the afternoon of Monday. In the course of the night our complete victory was confirmed. Having ascertained the loss in killed and wounded, I ordered all the goods on hand to be loaded on two of our wagons, and started myself on horseback, in company with Medical Purveyor Dr. Patton, and a train of medical stores of the Government.

We reached Winchester at three o'clock, A. M. Without seeking a bed, I commenced at once my visits to the many hospitals, all crowded to overflowing, and in the most miserable and destitute condi-

tion; wounded and all lived on one-fourth of a ration, and help was terribly needed. To share out equally, I went to see Medical Director Dr. Dubois, as soon as daylight came, and obtained a rough estimate of the number of wounded in each Corps. This estimate guided me in the distribution of all I had. I made the repartition, and issued in bulk to the Surgeons in charge of each Corps, whose vouchers I hold.

By three o'clock, P. M., on the same day, I had passed through all the principal hospitals, and then hurried back to the ferry, with an escort of ten men.

Since then, we have all been working day and night to receive, re-load, and forward goods to the front. Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Knapp went out in an ambulance last Thursday. Two more wagons heavily loaded started with them. At this moment I am busy in having five more wagons and six ambulances loaded with stores. The whole will leave to-day, yet Mr. Knapp sent me word last night, that my presence at W. is needed, so I will start again, though I feel very tired for want of sleep, and the effects of a bad cold, which seems to settle on my lungs.

The two wagons arrived this morning. One of our teams broke down this side of W., and has not yet returned; as soon as it comes in, it will have to start for Hagerstown. There, too, our help is needed.

The Sandy Hook Hospital has been frequently visited, and provided with ice, wine, and other articles.

Mr. Evans leaves just now, and I am anxious you should get these few lines before Monday. Our stores may last four or five days.

Yours, etc.,

G. A. Muhlech.

—

Washington, *September* 26, 1864,

Mr. Wm. A. Hovey,
Assistant to Associate Secretary :

Dear Sir—In compliance with your request, I herewith present you a brief sketch of my work with General Crook's command during the last few days of my labors among them.

On Sunday afternoon, the 18th instant, the camp near Summit Point was broken up. The long trains were ready for the march, the men stood long impatient for the "forward, march."

It was not given that night, so we bivouaced as best we could, expecting that in the morning, the anticipated order would be given. At daybreak we commenced to move, the Commission wagon falling into its appropriate place behind the medicine wagon of the Second Division.

This march was performed for the most part amid the low reverberations of the distant firing of the artillery and musketry of the 6th and 19th Corps. It was not until about eleven o'clock that Gen. Crooks was brought into the action.

The location of the field hospital being determined, I left the wagon there and set out with Mr. Knowlton for the front to assist as we could. On arriving on the field we found our forces pushing ahead, thus affording us the best opportunity to remove the wounded, dying and dead into the field hospitals. We did what we could, we assisted them to ambulances, and endeavored to stimulate their patriotism, patience and courage.

By midnight the greater part of the first day's wounded were gathered to the various hospitals—no one spared exertion. Late in the evening we returned to the hospitals to make all, as far as possible, comfortable for the night. By help from nurses, I arranged the sufferers side by side, so that two, and sometimes three, could enjoy the benefit of the same blanket. He who had abundance, by being appealed to, was induced to part with something to cover his less fortunate comrade. Thus by dint of a little planning we were enabled to warm the chilled frame and stop the chattering teeth.

* * * * *

The early morning brought us new work. We assisted at the amputation table, furnishing sometimes lint, bandages and other stores.

I kept the nurses to work on the most needy—sought out the bummers and stragglers around, and set them to work washing off the whole body of the slightly wounded, as they passed under the Surgeon's and dressers' hands, supplying them myself with clean clothing. You would have been pleased to see the trans-

formation I worked in this way. Took the name, and nature of wound of each man for the Surgeon's report, and in this way turned my hand to any and every thing that demanded attention. Thus passed the day, distributing meanwhile many stores I had in my well-stocked wagon for this emergency. Thus passed the next day in part. About noon I turned over to my successor all the Sanitary Commission interests, and went to Winchester to return home. This closes my connection with the Commission as a Relief Agent.

It is with pain I part from a work in which I have taken much pleasure. The soldier that lies bleeding, hungry and chilly, to keep from our doors the tyrant and oppressor, is worthy to receive the sympathies of the best, to engage the energies of the greatest in this most noble of all work—alleviating his sufferings.

Most respectfully, etc.,

D. W. Evans.

To the Standing Committee of the
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

Harper's Ferry, *September* 21.

Soon after mailing my letters of yesterday to you at Baltimore, I heard of the engagement near Winchester, and decided to come here before visiting City Point.

I ordered Mr. Pancoast to send by Adams' Express, a designated assortment of battle-field and hospital supplies, most of which were in our store-house at Baltimore, the only articles purchased being tin cups, milk and sherry wine, the latter having been specially telegraphed for by our agent here, by request of the Medical Director of the District. I then telegraphed to you my intention to come here, and to Mr. Hovey, at Washington, what I had done. An hour later, I found Mr. Knapp, Associate Secretary for the East, and Mr. John S. Blatchford, of Boston, an Associate Member of the Commission, and requested them to accompany me. No train was to leave Baltimore until this morning.

We reached this place at about 1 P. M. Visiting our storehouse, we found Colonel Muhlech absent at the front, and the stock of supplies low from the drafts just made upon us. The wagons were at the front, or on the way back, except two four-horse teams and one two-horse team. Our stores were not to arrive on freight-train here until five P. M., after which, there was to be no train to Winchester with an escort, (without which the road is not considered safe,) until to-morrow afternoon—so the Assistant Adjutant-General and Captain Flagg, the Quartermaster, told us.

By the aid of our natural allies, the press correspondents, we heard of a stragglers' guard as likely to go out at eight o'clock to-morrow morning, and have directed the loading of the two four-horse wagons, to go out under its protection.

We have carefully chosen the articles most likely to be needed, viz., beef stock, stimulants, woolen underclothing, bandages and old linen, crackers, lemons and sponges.

The Government transportation is heavily taxed, and though Capt. Flagg and the other officials show a desire to assist as far as they can, they are unable to give us the transportation for a single pound.

Yours respectfully,

J. Foster Jenkins,
General Secretary.

Mr. Knapp writes from Harper's Ferry, September 21:

Four car loads of supplies have arrived here to-day, since Dr. Jenkins and I reached here, (one car load from Washington—an excellent assortment—and three from Baltimore.) Three teams, four horses each, are with the three Army Corps. Yesterday Col. Muhlech sent out two more teams with assorted supplies, and in the morning to-morrow, two more teams well loaded go out, while the two yesterday's teams will probably be here to take out loads to-morrow afternoon; these, with two more teams to come from Washington, will make a good train.

No train has gone out this afternoon, with which Dr. Jenkins and I could go, escorted by them. We expect to go to Winchester to-morrow morning, getting there to-morrow evening. I telegraphed you to-night on receipt of your last telegram, to send another four-horse team from Washington, taking it, if need be, from the storehouse service; also, one saddle horse.

10, P. M. Col. Muhlech is just in from

Winchester. The need there of supplies is large. A medical train and a commissary train arrived just before he left the place.

The wounded to be provided for, (our own and the rebel,) are about six thousand. There was another engagement for the possession of Fisher's Hill—sharp but short—in which we drove the rebels with a dash—moderate loss to us—captured eight hundred rebels.

* * * * *

—

Colonel Muhlech writes from the same place, September 23:

I sit down at a late hour of the night to pen you yet a few lines, so as to inform you of the whereabouts of Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Knapp.

They left for the front yesterday morning. I hope they have safely reached Winchester. I myself, returned from there on Wednesday night, after a ride of seventy miles in twenty-four hours. Horse and rider were equally exhausted.

I found some six thousand wounded, (union and rebel,) scattered all over the town; churches, hotels, stores, and private houses are used as temporary hospitals. They were destitute of every thing, and an immense deal of good will be done by the timely arrival of our sanitary goods. Would to God I had more means of transportation, now that our storehouse is overflowing. Four teams heavily loaded have been forwarded to Winchester thus far. As soon as your two other wagons reach the ferry, I shall send out further four loads. One team loaded with stores leaves to-morrow morning for Hagerstown, where there are also a great many patients, and help is badly wanted.

Dr. Jenkins and Mr. Knapp are expected back to-morrow night. However, I hardly think they will be here before Sunday, as the road is unsafe, and can only be traveled with an escort.

Two thousand prisoners, with one hundred and forty-seven commissioned officers, passed through this afternoon; a thousand wounded are also expected in to-night. They will be left at Sandy Hook Hospital; a further lot of as many will be sent either to Baltimore or Frederick. This will leave at Winchester only the most serious cases.

U. S. Sanitary Commission,
Winchester, Va., *September* 26, 1864.

To the Standing Committee of the
U. S. Sanitary Commission:

Gentlemen—I have the satisfaction this morning of reporting the arrival of Col. Muhlech last evening, a few hours in advance of the Commission's supply train of five wagons and eight ambulances. The train was to park on its arrival at the suburbs, and to report here this morning. Miss Harris, Colonel Fach, and two Relief Agents from Washington, accompany it; a very welcome addition to our working force. The supplies are equivalent to eight wagon loads—an assorted stock, with rather a preponderance of food *and deficiency of warm coverings and under clothing. These are the great want we have here now. The weather became cooler on Saturday evening, and there has been a great increase of suffering the last two nights, three cases of tetanus, resulting from exposure.*

Col. M. hopes to be able to secure ambulances, so long as large trains come back here empty. It is not likely to be long, unless much larger numbers of wounded from the front are precipitated upon us.

There are here some thirty very devoted union women, who, ever since the tide of war began to surge up and down the valley, have, when occasion offered, given their time and goods for the relief of our disabled soldiers; whether in our own hospitals, or prisoners in those of the enemy.

The casualties attending the campaigns of Banks, Milroy, and the occupation of Crooks and Averill in July last, were greatly mitigated by their attentions.

In one of the rebel hospitals here, are now thirty-nine wounded union soldiers, who are enthusiastic in their eulogy of those who have treated them so kindly every day since the evacuation by our troops in July.

These ladies have been visiting indiscriminately the past week the hospitals of the city—overdoing the matter in some, entirely neglecting others.

Mr. Blatchford and I devoted a good part of yesterday to the effort of inducing them to systematise their work.

After visiting the representative women at their homes, we effected a conference in the afternoon, and, by our advice, they designated seven of their number who should

be responsible for certain relief work in the seven districts into which we have arbitrarily divided the city. Each of the seven—who will be personally known to Col. Muhlech, Mr. Adams, (Hospital Visitor,) and the storekeeper—will call to her assistance such aid as she needs in her district. We shall issue only to the seven such portions of our stock, suitable for the preparation of extra and light diet, as we can, with regard to the wants of the whole service, spare day by day.

The plan has the approval of the Medical Director, and of such of the Chief Medical officers as I have consulted.

I think we have thus secured a reliable corps of hospital visitors, under a good organization, not cumbersome, or embarrassing.

Yours respectfully,

J. FOSTER JENKINS,
General Secretary.

Consolidated List of Stores received at Storehouse, Winchester, Va., Tuesday, 20th, and Thursday, 22d September, 1864.

360 lbs. beef stock.	2 bbls. bandages.
144 bottles whisky.	2 " old linen.
96 " sherry wine.	2 boxes lemons.
384 lbs. condensed milk.	54 lbs. dessic. egg.
598 wool shirts.	92 " crushed sugar.
409 prs. wool drawers.	400 tin cups.
162 blankets.	250 splints (surg.)
149 quilts.	10 prs. crutches.
400 towels.	5 reams paper.
200 cushions.	2,500 envelopes.
135 bed sacks.	250 prs. wool socks.
108 pillows.	126 sheets.
401 lbs. chocolate.	25 lbs. sponge.
7 bbls. crackers.	144 bottles Jamaica ginger.
400 lbs. maizena.	103 " blackberry syrup.

Statement of Supplies received at the Depot of the Commission at Winchester, Va., on Sept. 26th, 1864.

67 bed sacks.	6 bbls. coffee.
184 pillow cases.	50 lbs. chocolate.
184 blankets.	1,440 lbs. cond. milk.
100 quilts.	162 " dessicated egg.
120 sheets.	3 bbls. white sugar.
440 flannel drawers.	5 " brown "
530 " shirts.	1 case jellies.
540 prs. woolen socks.	540 lbs. beef stock.
120 " shoes.	180 " roast beef.
2 cases handkerchiefs.	20 gallons pickles.
3 " towels.	216 bottles whisky.
3 boxes soap.	216 " sherry.
1 lot hand basins.	3 cases blackberry brandy.
1 lot coffee pots.	18 reams note paper.
350 tin cups.	4 " letter "
48 lanterns.	1 lot envelopes.
1 bbl. tin plates.	1 lot reading matter.
24 bbls. crackers.	390 cushions.
5 boxes (200 lbs.) maizena.	2 bbls. old linen.
4 chests tea.	1 case lint.

WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON THE JAMES RIVER.

The following definite and clear expression of opinion in regard to the operations of the Commission, is from one who has been in active military service from the beginning of the War, and has had abundant opportunities of observation:

NEW YORK AGENCY, CITY POINT, VA.,
September 20th, 1864.

TO COL. SAMUEL NORTH,
N. Y. State Military Agent, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR—In my rounds of observation to-day, I visited the Headquarters of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at their floating depot at the wharf, and was, as usual, very kindly received, and my suggestions as to the kinds and methods of relief most requisite just now in hospital and at the front, courteously accepted and considered.

My convictions are only strengthened by every day's observation, that the true way to work for the soldiers is by and through this many-armed organization, and to see that it is supplied with the means, and then that it does its work, and to give it credit for what it does. It is for the interest both of the State Agencies and the Sanitary Commission that their relations be distinctly and permanently adjusted upon these principles. Your own experience as State Agent, will, I know, confirm this view.

On the broad and capacious wharf, I found the work of receiving and sending out fresh vegetables going bravely on. There was a stock of fine cabbages, part of 6,000 heads, which had just come in from Philadelphia by the Commission's Steamer "Elizabeth:"

Onions, 460 barrels.
Sweet Potatoes, 95 barrels.
Pickles, 45 casks,
Irish Potatoes, 50 barrels,
Beets, 50 "

And boxes of peaches, &c., in proportion, to be distributed from the local depots in the hospitals on the hill, to say nothing of the well-stored barges piled with the usual and varied supplies.

Several teams were receiving their loads for the front, and I ascertained upon inquiry, that 18 teams (owned by the Commission,) were at the moment employed in getting the fresh supplies to the very front. To the 9th Corps and to the 18th, each, 1,000 cabbages had gone; 715 to the 5th; 750 to the 2d, and the work was going on.

As I stood by the pile, asking questions, I found myself instinctively taking out my

jack-knife, whittling and munching the plump stalk of a broken cabbage-leaf with such memories and visions of home autumn scenes of in-gathering, as you can readily imagine. "That *does* seem natural?" said a soldier standing near, as he stepped forward and followed my example!

To my great satisfaction, also, I found that the authorities of the Commission had reached the conclusion, which you know had long been entertained by the writer, that the Government supply of liquors for medical purposes is ample, (though not always the best in quality, as they ought to be,) or may be made ample; and that this item of expenditure, so costly and so liable to abuse, may safely give way to the claims of other kinds of relief, more strictly within the sphere of the Commission. It is, in my view, a most judicious step, and not taken too soon. Yet a highly respected surgeon near me, suggests, as I write, that *good domestic wines* ought not to cease to be issued by the Commission; and that these can only be collected throughout the country by its agency. I presume they are still furnished, in detail, by the Commission, through trusty visitors of the General Hospitals in the cities, upon the proper requisition.

The issuing of *tobacco*, which had been suspended for a time, has been resumed, but is restricted in amount. To the *unpaid* men, and to those in hospital who desire it, no issue is more valued or more welcome; and I repeat only what I hear from the surgeons, most of whom speak "not inexperienced," when I say that there ought to be no deprivation of it to the classes I have just named. Mr. Seymour's supplies of this article, here in the front, will be remembered when the fresh vegetables so freely sent have been long forgotten.

The demand for *woolen shirts, drawers and socks*, is always very great; but the need now is more imperative than ever before, at this season and in this climate; and I am told here that every woolen shirt given out costs the Commission nearly *four dollars*. The class really needing them most is that of the convalescents, returning or about to return from hospital to regiment, with little flesh and blood about them, and almost certain to relapse if sent away thinly clad. In very many cases these must go back shivering, unless the Commission or a State Agency supply them; and it may be weeks before the convalescent, returned to duty, can "draw" them in his regiment. The sequel is, a relapse and a return to hospital.

And this brings up a very urgent and momentous *question of economy*. Where one thousand dollars is paid readily as bounty to a raw recruit, out of the public treasury, is it not a strange contradiction and neglect of wise *economy*, (leaving *humanity* out of the question,) to suffer the loss of the vigorous service of an experienced soldier by this defect in arrangements and provisions, otherwise so admirable and bountiful?

A soldier is brought to the hospital, sick or wounded, from a distant camp or line. His soiled or bloody shirt and drawers replaced by a hospital shirt and drawers of cotton; he remains for weeks—unpaid most likely; recovers, is "returned to duty,"—but, if he cannot communicate with his regiment, and often even if he can, there is no provided source for fitting him out warmly for his new exposure, except the charities of the Commission. It is so, too, as regards rheumatic invalids in hospital, requiring warm woolen underclothes. I know how entirely you will agree with me, from your own large experience in your office, when I express the earnest wish, that this simple consideration could *rule* in all that regards the sick and temporarily disabled soldier, who is not a proper subject for *immediate discharge;* namely, that "If a green recruit is worth $1,200 or $1,500 to put into the ranks, then it is the purest economy to spend at least half as much on any means and appliances which promise to promote and hasten the restoration of a sick or disabled veteran to sound health and vigor, and to efficient service."

I wish that this rule could dominate is all that relates to our hospitals, as it certainly has been recognized by the Sanitary Commission.

And I cannot help asking, why, if fresh vegetables are needful and desirable for keeping up the health and vigor of soldiers

in the front, the inconsiderable outlay of a few dollars per month, for extra-clothing for each invalid, should be omitted or unprovided for in the arrangements of Government, while such enormous sums are paid merely to secure the *enlistment* of men, who, for the want of just this outlay, are so soon to be transferred from the ranks to the hospitals.

I have always urged and recommended, though ineffectually, that a per centage of all State and local bounties should be *retained*, to constitute an "extra-clothing and hospital fund"—ample for the need, and a far more honorable resource to the recipient.

If society choose to *add*, as it will, to this requisite supply, by voluntary gifts, well. It is a necessary expression of its warm interest in the soldier; but the question is, whether its gifts should be so heavily drawn upon as they are, in simply enlarging and improving, (and that fitfully, unequally and partially,) his daily ration; or, whether its bounty should not be concentrated upon the work of assisting Government *in all means and appliances, however costly*, for hastening the return of vigor to a sick or wounded veteran, and of the cured veteran to duty in his regiment?

And I would instance the following as among the foremost examples of the direction of such efforts:

First of all. A very large addition to the medical staff of the army in the field and in the hospitals—of experienced and faithful Surgeons. This cannot be had without—

Second. A liberal increase in their pay, which is now mean and scanty.

Third. A liberal expenditure for extra clothing for all invalids—making this indispensable requisite to recovery and restoration easily accessible.

Fourth. A great and prompt enlargement of the appliances and the material for the preparation of special diet, in connection with all hospitals; and the provision of intelligent and faithful oversight and management of this department, so liable to abuse and its consequences to the sick.

And last. Perhaps most difficult, the utmost efforts, in the transportation of the sick and wounded, from camp and the battle-field, to prevent that waste of strength through exposure and unrest, which, more than any other cause, perhaps, so often precludes recovery, by making subsequent medical cure, however kind or skillful, ineffectual.

Yours respectfully,

J. V. Van Ingen,
Field Agent, N. Y. S.

DOINGS AT THE FRONT.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL.

Saturday, *September* 10, 1864.

Sent Tug "Curtain" to Point of Rocks in charge of Mr. Anderson, with the following supplies, to be distributed through the 18th Corps, by Mr. Geo. A Williams, Agent, 15 bbls. pickles, 30 bbls. onions, and 10 kegs tamarinds.

Communication from Mr. Fay, that the matter of head-boards has been arranged with the Chief Medical Officer, and the Commission need not supply them.

September 12th.

The issues to-day have been very large.

September 15th.

No news of importance from the front. Rebels continue to fire upon passing trains, but as yet, have failed to hit any. They use the solid Whitworth shot, and in some instances have hit between the rails. Trains are now running mostly at night, and earthworks are being erected for their protection.

Issues to-day have been rather large, yet during the afternoon, business was quite slack.

September 18th.

Went front and met Dr. McDonald at the 9th Corps; rode along the lines, giving Mr. Marsh, who accompanied us, every facility for gaining any information he might want. Rode to the 10th Corps, from there home. The Station at the 9th Corps is almost perfect in its arrangement. Tents neatly arranged. Grounds in good condition; arbors and archways made from cedar boughs, and the whole enclosed by fence, made from the same material.

The day was very quiet, and the pickets to a great extent observed it, as there was but very little firing.

September 20th.

News from Gen. Grant's Head-Quarters that Gen. Sheridan had badly whipped Gen. Early in the Shenandoah Valley, captured three thousand of the enemy, six guns, and all the dead and wounded. Found two thousand dead.

A salute of one hundred shotted guns is ordered to be fired along the lines to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock, in honor of the victory.

Great rejoicing; troops arriving, and with the good news just received, all feel that the end of this rebellion is near at hand.

September 21st.

The salute in honor of Sheridan's victory was fired according to orders this morning, meeting in portions of the line a vigorous response from the rebels.

Sent to the front yesterday and to-day, 218 bbls. onions, 2 bbls. beets, 49 bbls. pickles, 8 boxes peaches, (green,) 1 bbl. tamarinds; all transported by our own wagons.

September 22d.

Sent to the front, 144 bbls. onions, 6 bbls. beets, 32 boxes peaches, (green).

Four Corps received battle-stock, viz., 2d, 9th, 10th, and 18th.

Four Corps received stock for issuing, viz., 2d, 9th, 10th, and 18th.

Every preparation is being made to meet the demands of the next battle. Have a good reserved stock, but we need a great deal more, even if the resistance on the part of the rebels is not as stubborn as we all expect it will be.

September 23d.

Issues to-day have been very large.

Sent three wagons front; two to the 5th, and one to the 10th Corps.

Communication from Dr. C. R. Agnew, from which the following abstract is taken:

"The Executive Committee, upon the receipt of your note (Dr. McDonald's) of the 16th inst., passed the following resolution, viz., Dr. McDonald be instructed to issue *tobacco* to soldiers *in the trenches*, notifying them, however, that such issues cannot be permanent."

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HEAD-QUARTERS 2D DIV., 5TH A. C.,
SATURDAY, *Sept. 24th*, 1864.

"Received of Mr. E. M. Barton, Agent of the Sanitary Commission for the 5th A. C., the following articles for the use of the enlisted of this Division: 6 bbls. pickles, 26 bbls. onions.

Signed, C. E. LA MOTTE,
Lt.-Col. and A. A. A. G."

—

Issue of Vegetables to the 10th Corps by J. R. ELSBREE, *Agent in charge 10th Corps Station, Sept. 24th*, 1864:

First Brigade 1st Division, 13 bbls. onions, 1 gall. pickles.

Second Brigade 1st Division, 8 bbls. onions, 210 heads cabbage.

Third Brigade 1st Division, 9 bbls. onions, 1½ bbls. pickles, 115 cabbages.

First Brigade 2d Division, 13 bbls. onions.

Second Brigade 2d Division, 5 bbls. onions, 121 heads cabbage.

Third Brigade 2d Division, 6 bbls. onions, 282 heads cabbage.

Colored Brigade 3d Division, 14 bbls. onions, 1 bbl. pickles, 50 cabbages.

Light Artillery, 2 bbls. onions, 3 galls. pickles.

Detachments, Head-Quarters Guards, and Ambulance Corps, 170 heads cabbage, 7½ bbls. onions, 2¼ bbls. pickles.

Some preferred cabbage to onions, and vice versa, but if onions only were distributed, there were enough to give each man four times the amount of Government rations.

This distribution is now being made to all the Corps, but have received no reports from other Agents.

September 27.

The barge Oneida, of Philadelphia, was loaned to us by Col. Pitkin, and the work of placing her in suitable condition for our use and wants was immediately commenced.

September 28.

The 10th Corps are crossing the Appomattox this evening. It was rumored that they were going to Newbern, N. C.

We are anxious about the movements at the front; various rumors are afloat, but nothing definite can be learned.

September 29.

2 A. M. Messenger from Captain Harris arrived, asking for two wagons to remove his goods. The hospitals were broken up, sick sent to City Point, and were ordered, (the hospitals,) to move at 4 o'clock.

All teams were to be at Gurley House at 4.30, at which time, also, the troops were to march.

4 o'clock. Captain Harris arrived, and expected a hot time during the day. Wagons were sent for his disposal. One wagon with battle stock was to follow in each corps, and two wagons were loaded at this point, to report at Cedar Level, and there to await orders. Captain Harris returned to the front about 5 o'clock, Dr. Anderson accompanying, and have not heard from him since.

News this evening is, they are fighting on the right, have carried three lines of the enemy's works and captured sixteen guns.

Wagons sent front for the removal of superfluous goods from the 2d, 5th and 9th Corps, arrived this evening; brought no news.

Wagons sent to Cedar Creek to await orders, returned; loads to be retained in them, and to be ready to move at a moment's notice.

September 30.

News from the Right, glorious! Captured thirty guns, two fifteen-inch and one hundred-pound Whitworth, with all their ammunition, together with quartermasters' stores. Kautz's Cavalry was within three miles of Richmond last night, and reinforcements were sent him. The negroes fought splendidly, and we are slowly driving the rebels. Casualties not known.

The 10th and 18th Corps are the only ones engaged on the Right, and they are doing their work well. Gen. Burnham was killed, and Gen. Ord wounded.

The 10th Corps crossed the James River at Deep Bottom, on the 18th, at Aikin's Landing. General Grant has been on the Right both days.

Our wagons accompanied each corps, and sent besides tug Curtin, with large load in charge of Mr. Anderson, to Deep Bottom; also, having on board Mr. Fay and six Relief Agents. The Sanitary Commission was on the ground first. The two wagons that were kept loaded were sent to the Right, one going to the 10th Corps, and the other to the 18th in the field.

Tug returned at 3.30, again loaded, and sent back; besides loading two more wagons and sent out, giving us on the Right a bountiful supply to meet any emergency.

Skirmishing during the night and morning, in the afternoon a regular engagement, resulting in our forces carrying two lines of the enemy's works. Mr. Davis in charge of the wagons is with the troops, and has a good supply.

At the request of Col. Sharpe, Deputy Provost Marshal-General, we accommodate to-night three refugees from Petersburg, who left that place yesterday. They report that the people are greatly dissatisfied, and that the majority of them will hail our forces with joy when they enter either Petersburg or Richmond.

Four wagons and tug sent to the Right.

October 1.

Have had a drenching, cold rain all day. No fighting that we have heard of. Our forces on the Right, (Butler's command,) are within 6 miles of Richmond, and there must remain till reinforcements come up; some have gone to-day. Roads are in wretched condition already, and two or three days of such rain as this will dig out the bottom. Colored troops of the 10th Corps fought splendidly, and we hold all that they gained yesterday and the day previous. The wounded are being sent down the river as fast as possible. The Sanitary Commission have done a good work in this department. Were on the ground yesterday before noon with stores and agents, (at Deep Bottom,) and at work immediately on landing. Two loaded four-horse teams were sent to the front early in the morning, one to the 18th, the other to the 10th Corps. The tug Curtin took a second load of stores to Deep Bottom yesterday afternoon. These, with the two loads that crossed with the corps the day previous, were enough to supply the demands, but it was desirable, in case more were needed at the front to dispatch two loads yesterday afternoon.

They got off at 5 o'clock, P. M., and reported at Deep Bottom, at 2 A. M. of to-. The Curtin was sent up this morning with fresh supplies, and again during the afternoon. Finding the hospitals were being cleared and no new cases being brought in, the two teams which arrived this morning were sent across the river to find a camping ground and await orders. One team, partially loaded, remained at the hospital to remove tents and stores in case the hospital should change location.

Eleven wagon loads (4 horses each) have been sent to Deep Bottom, and two (four horse) loads have gone directly to the front, making thirteen (four horse) loads sent to the 10th and 18th Corps. Two agents have gone directly to the front, and from eight to ten have been constantly engaged at the hospital at Deep Bottom.

From the left we have glorious news. A messenger came in at 2 A. M for two loads of stores to be sent to the left, as our stock in wagons at that point was nearly exhausted. The teams left early this morning in charge of Mr. Little.

We have on the left Capt. Harris, Capt. Davis, Dr. Stevens and Son, Mr. Barton, and four teams with 5th and 9th; Mr. Miles and two teams in reserve at 2d; Mr. Risden and Caulkins' two teams with 18th at Bermuda Hundred; Mr. Richards and one team with 18th Corps front; Mr. Ellsbree and one team with 10th Corps, front; Mr. Clayton and one team with a part of Mr. Fay's A. R. C. at hospital, Deep Bottom; Wagon-master Luce with two teams encamped on south side of the James, at Deep Bottom. Mr. Fay is on hand with his corps of A. R. Agents, but still keeping a small force at the base hospitals.

October 2d.

The steamer Elizabeth arrived at one o'clock to-day. Her stock is much needed, and we are unloading her as rapidly as possible.

Our left wing is reported to-night as being within one mile of the South-side Railroad, still pressing forward; have been fighting all day, and the wounded are coming in very rapidly, being brought by rail within one-half mile of the hospitals, thence by ambulance. A large number of them are bad cases.

WESTERN DEPARTMENT.

Dr. Newberry writes from Louisville, September 8:

By Wheeler's raid we are cut off from all communication with the army, and shall be for —— or more to come. For this reason I can give you no late news of our operations there.

In the supply Department there must be little done for sometime, as when the road is opened we must expect to have our trans-

portation limited by the demand for food for the fighting men.

Dr. Blake has written me, calling loudly for stores at New Orleans, and this interruption of our communications with Atlanta will permit me to respond to this call.

I shall, therefore, on Monday start a steamer load of stores down the river. We have a fair lot of just the articles he wants.

Among the items of our business at the front, not before reported, I may mention—

1st. The death by typhoid fever of J. H. Milliken, our agent at Knoxville. Milliken was a young man of fine acquirements and pure and estimable character. Mr. Bellam takes his place temporarily.

2d. Culbertson gives a good report of the garden at Knoxville, with tabular statement of products distributed. Wills, at Chattonooga, ditto.

3d. Mr. E. L. Jones, our invaluable storekeeper at Chattanooga, has returned to Nashville sick; will soon be better, however—shall probably keep him at Nashville, and make him storekeeper there.

M. C. Read and Prof. Horsford, of Chattanooga, are both still absent on sick leave, but will probably return by the 15th.

Dr. Seymour, now holding M. C. Read's place at Chattanooga, closes his term of service on the 10th instant, and must go home for three months.

A Mr. Longley, a friend of Dr. Warriner, has been appointed storekeeper at Chattanooga, in place of Mr. Jones, and will go there as soon as communication is opened.

These changes, and many others of less importance, have given, and will give me much thought and anxiety. The work of the Commission at the front, Chattanooga, Nashville, and all along the line, is going on as well or better than could be expected.

Dr. Webster, appointed Chief Inspector to Sherman's Army, in place of Dr. Read, (disabled,) has been brought back to Nashville, sick, and will not be able to return. If he recovers soon, I shall make him Superintendant of the Agency at Nashville, in place of Mr. Root, who will return to the Relief Department.

Dr. Woodward will take Dr. Webster's place at the front.

Rev. J. P. T. Ingraham, the best of our hospital visitors, is about to leave us to take a pastoral charge at Indianapolis. I am very unwilling to lose him, as he is a model man.

The hospital gardens continue to prove great institutions.

The hospital trains are now all reduced to system under Dr. Barnum's management, who has a contract from the Medical Department. New and improved cars are being procured, and soon that branch of the service will be a credit to all concerned.

We are furnishing stores and other fixtures, extra assistants and supplies, in all needed ways; helping the enterprise on to the highest success.

Dr. Hazen and Mr. Carpenter, with my consent, have left the service of the Commission, and have taken contracts as Surgeons on the hospital train.

In the warehouse, office, hospital directory, home, etc., here, every thing is going on as usual.

We send you, this week, report of issues and shipments. We aim to keep very little here, but push every thing forward as rapidly as possible.

Supplies are coming in freely, and, in compliance with instructions, we have been purchasing largely of onions, pickles, and kraut—have ordered, bought up, all we could in the country, and have had large quantities of pickled cabbage, cucumbers, and onions made up for us.

The pickles sent by you have arrived safely.

I bought two thousand bushels of onions in Cleveland, at $1.25 per bushel; while at Cincinnati they are worth $2.50.

MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT.

No great changes have occurred in this Department. The two Ways have left Vicksburg, sick. Benson remains in charge. Carpenter and Grant, of Memphis, have returned with restored health. Christy's report of his late trip you have received. He continues to give entire satisfaction.

At Cairo, all things work smoothly under Mr. Shipman's good management. The status in the home field is very encouraging. Our friends are working busily, and in the best of spirits.

KINGSTON.

August 13.

Mr. Eno writes:

In my last report from this station, I stated that Mr. Van Dyke would make the next. About the close of the month, an active agent was wanted for the 14th Army Corps, and he was assigned to it—but unfortunately was too unwell to make a report, or go to the field assigned him.

The following is a condensed statement of refreshments given to the sick and wounded on trains going North, and also the report of disbursements for the month. From this, the supporters of the Sanitary Commission, can see at a glance, that they have not given, or labored in vain.

During the month of July, there were 6,671 sick and wounded soldiers on the trains going North, to whom there were given 671 gallons of coffee, 16 gallons of soup, 53 gallons of punch, 5 gallons of tea, 55 gallons of ale, 16 bottles of stimulants, 414 lbs. of crackers, 3,895 rations of bread and ham, 2 shirts, 6 lbs. of bandages, 5 lbs. of candles, (to use in box-cars at night,) and milk and sugar sufficient for their coffee.

Mr. Sutliffe's report of the refreshment station at Dalton, was sent you some days since. You can always rely upon his work being done well.

After the 15th of July, the trains ran so that it was not necessary to stop at Resaca, and I directed Mr. Johnson to report at Marietta, with his fixtures and stock.

Dr. Herrick, who had charge of shipping the wounded, then thought it best to start a station, either at Marietta or Vining's, but a change in running trains rendered it unnecessary. Mr. Johnson is now assisting Mr. Tone; should it be necessary to start another refreshment station he will be an excellent man for it. His report of the 15th of July, shows that there were 3,235 sick and wounded soldiers stopped on the trains at Resaca, to whom he gave 386 gallons of coffee, 88 gallons of soup, 14 bottles of stimulants, 735 lbs. of crackers, 12 shirts, and 12 drawers. Many of the wounded going north on furlough, have lost their clothing, and leave the hospital minus coat and pants, rather than wait for clothing to be brought to the front by the Government—thinking they would be able to draw in Chattanooga or Nashville; in this, many have been disappointed, merely because proper arrangements had not been made.

In justice to the officers, it may be said they have had their hands full - but the Government has sufficient clothing, and measures are being taken by which it is hoped the evil will be remedied.

Dr. Clendenin, of Nashville, and Dr. Salter, of Hospital No. 1, Chattanooga, assured me that wounded men reporting to them, should have clothing drawn for them.

Dr. Goslin, of the 15th Army Corps' Field Hospital in this place, has taken the right method to insure every man what is necessary.

He sends a man to Chattanooga with them, to draw their clothing there. Still, I fear there will be some who will have to depend on the Sanitary Commission, and I would advise keeping Capt. Brayton, of the Home in Nashville, supplied, so that he can send men away rejoicing, instead of ashamed to meet their friends.

August 23.

Since my last, the refreshment stations at Dalton and Kingston have been doing their usual "good Samaritan" work, supplying the wants of the sick and wounded soldiers on their way North. Mr. Sutliffe had the misfortune to lose his stock and fixtures, by the raid into Dalton last week, but his stoppage will be only temporary.

At this station, Mr. Kennedy has charge of the relief department, and Mr. Barret the refreshments. From the 1st to the 21st of August, 2,555 sick and wounded passed on trains going North, to whom refreshments were given, consisting of hot coffee, light bread, cold ham, crackers, apple sauce, pickles, etc.

Whole No. since the 15th of June, 14,616.

Much of my time this month has been spent in looking after the interests of furloughed men and men in hospitals without descriptive rolls—many furloughed men, who had lost their clothing in battle, were being sent from hospitals of the Army of the Tennessee, in shirts and drawers, without any provision being made to draw clothing on the way home, leaving them dependent on Sanitary and State Agents for

a supply. As State Agent for Illinois, I was authorized to furnish clothing for Illinois soldiers, but did not feel justified in expending money that should be used for purchasing vegetables, when I knew the Government had made ample provision, and all that was necessary to obtain it, was to know how. I found the Surgeons willing to do all they supposed they were authorized—and as soon as the Medical Director's attention was called to it, the evil was remedied, and now there is no reason why a soldier should be sent from hospital without sufficient clothing.

The medical authorities also say they would much prefer that the Sanitary Commission would furnish less of stimulants and clothing, and expend the money saved in anti-scorbutics. I would, therefore, suggest that every Sanitary Agent should make himself acquainted with what the Medical Purveyor can furnish, and regulate his orders and issues accordingly. If this is done, I firmly believe it will be safe to reduce the amount appropriated for clothing and stimulants three-fourths, and the amount thus saved will do vastly more good expended in anti-scorbutics.

The great staples necessary for the health and comfort of the army are vegetables, pickles, kraut, good vinegar, dried fruit, condensed milk and beef, farina, rags and bandages. Let there be a full supply of these, and with what the Ladies' Aid Societies will furnish, there will be no scurvy or complaining.

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CAIRO.

The Agent writes from the "Soldiers' Home" at Cairo, September 21:

I have thought it would be a pleasure to you, were some one to write you something about affairs at this very busy place. Heretofore you have heard little of our labors and successes at this point, from the simple fact that we have all been so busy, not for the past day, week or month, but all the time.

Once in a while, it is true, we do have a lull in the storm, but these quiet times are always occupied by preparations for the coming contest, which we know must shortly follow. Invariably the contest begins with redoubled force and energy. Our rests are short. They are only breathing spells, in which the decks are cleaned, the guns rubbed up, and every instrument for our bloodless warfare, put in order for action. The stay of our guests is necessarily short. They do not as a general thing desire to remain long, either going home or to their regiments, and we *could not* with our limited arrangements, accommodate them for a longer time. In fact, for this place our arrangements are not extensive enough.

We have not room enough, force enough, nor ability sufficient to cope with the great numbers daily and hourly pressing upon us. Here we are with our two regular trains, besides extra ones, daily pouring their live streams of blue coats upon us—with the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers depositing their loads from above, for shorter or longer times, and from below as far as New Orleans; and on either side of the great father of waters there, the arteries of the Southwest both great and small, they come, and come not like the steady flow of blood from veins, but in gushings and floods, not unlike the discharge from the arteries of the human frame.

Our dining room is capable of seating one hundred and eighty men comfortably, but by crowding it will accommodate two hundred and ten men. Our sleeping apartments are three in number, containing in all two hundred and forty-three beds. The rooms are high and well ventilated. The beds are all kept clean and free from vermin. The clothing is neat and comfortable. There are, besides these, eight in the hospital room, for the use of the sick alone.

There are comparatively few of our people who know much of the workings of these indispensible institutions, and smaller by far is the number who know anything about this particular one. Here every man has his duties laid down, and he is expected and does perform them. The workings of the "Home" here are as regular as clockwork; the machinery of which is wound up daily, weekly, monthly, and yearly. It is not a wheel within a wheel, but a clock within a clock. Soldiers are received only in squads, or one at a time—squads numbering from two to one hundred and fifty.

Their names are registered, and tickets of admission to the dining room are given them, which are taken at the door. Tickets are issued three times a day.

Last Thursday the 143d Illinois came up from Helena, Ark. Only twenty-seven men, out of a regiment of over eight hundred men, were fit for duty. These men had been cooped up on board the boat for four or five days, and their situation was enough to soften the hardest heart. Seldom, I trust, is such a regiment seen. They looked more like moving skeletons than a live regiment. A great many were boys, tender and delicate—too young for such hardships. Their sufferings had been great, their situation was a sad one. Our breakfast lasted until 11 A. M. That day we issued about seven hundred meals. But to see their feeble looks of thankfulness, was enough to repay us for our labor. Food was carried to those who were not able to to come to the table.

Yesterday, the 20th September, was a lively day. The 140th Illinois, on their way home from Paducah, Ky., to be mustered out, stopped in Cairo about twenty hours.

Application was made by the Surgeon to Mr. Shipman, the General Agent and Superintendent of the Soldiers' Home, for supper and lodging for his sick. They were received. Then there was hurrying to and fro, of busy feet. New life was infused into the kitchen, renewed energy was necessary for all. The tables were set again for the third time for supper. The hospital room was soon filled with the sickest. Still they came. They were carried up stairs to the sleeping apartments and there was room, at least for the most serious cases.

By this time supper was prepared. Hot tea and coffee steamed upon the tables. Good bread and good butter were there in abundance. Stewed fruit and pickles awaited the assault. The meal was a simple one, but with those poor fellows it was a feast. To stand at the head of that room and look upon that scene was a sight rarely to be met with.

If the noble self-sacrificing men and women at home, who are working in the cause, could have been present, they would have returned to their homes satisfied that their efforts were not made in vain.

The full number of meals issued yesterday was about eight hundred. The report for the week ending September 21st, has just been brought in. In it seventeen States are represented. Number of men admitted, two thousand eight hundred and thirty-three. Number of lodgings, two thousand seven hundred and sixty-two; Number of meals issued, five thousand three hundred and fifty-two. Average number per day, four hundred and five. Aided in procuring transportation, one hundred and forty-four.

ANTI-SCORBUTICS—FORREST AND WHEELER'S RAID—SOLDIERS' HOME.

Dr. Newberry, under date of September 30, Louisville, Ky., writes:

"For the last ten days we have been in a state of suspended animation in consequence of the raid of Forrest and Wheeler on the Nashville and Chattanooga road. For the present it has arrested all transmission of goods or persons below Nashville, and has, of course, checked the flow of the flood of vegetables with which we proposed to inundate Sherman's army. As a part of this special effort, our shipments have been within the past week very large, about 25 car-loads, and I had made arrangements for keeping up an almost equal flow of stores for some time to come.

"I have authorized the establishment of a Home at Paducah and another at Jeffersonville, opposite this city, in both of which places such institutions are greatly needed."

AID TO THE UNION PRISONERS IN CHARLESTON.

It will rejoice many hearts to know that the United States Sanitary Commission has opened a communication with our officers and soldiers imprisoned in Charleston, Andersonville, and other places in the South. Through Lieut.-Col. Woodford, Agent of Exchange at Charleston, assurances have been received from Maj. Lay, the Confederate Agent of Exchange, that supplies of specified kinds, and packed under specified directions, will be safely forwarded to our men. The offer was received by the Commission with some distrust, and it was not until after a thorough examination of the grounds of encouragement for the successful issue of an undertaking so important, that the decision was made.

Dr. M. M. Marsh, the efficient agent in charge at Beaufort, S. C., has already seen over the lines the following articles:

24 cases beef stock.	2 cases lemon juice.
14 cases condensed milk.	10 bottles stimulants.
13 cases coffee.	36 linen vests.
13 cases tomatoes.	36 linen coats.
1 case cocoa	40 prs. pants.
24 cases chocolate.	20 lbs. tea
4 cases pickles.	232 woolen blankets.
4 cases jellies.	100 quilts.
11 bbls. crackers.	1,290 towels.
1 bbl. dried fruit.	1,300 handkerchiefs.
25 tin cups.	1,150 prs. woollen socks.
quantity black pepper.	590 prs. slippers.
quantity red pepper.	750 prs. woolen drawers.
quantity soap, combs and pin-cushions.	400 prs. cotton drawers.
	400 cotton shirts.
quantity writing paper and envelopes.	780 woolen shirts.

A second lot is on the way, viz:

3,000 blankets.	1,000 prs. shoes.
2,000 shirts.	2,000 prs. pants, wool.
2,000 prs. drawers.	1,000 blouses, wool.
2,000 prs. socks, wool.	

If the object is attained, and no new obstructions arise, the Commission will continue the merciful work, as far as its means will allow.

THE COMMISSION AND THE GOVERNMENT.

Sir—Although the Sanitary Commission has been in active operation more than three years, its plan of action, and what it tends to do or not to do, and its relation to the United States Government and the people, are even yet imperfectly understood, and though it has sought to do its work through the Medical Department of the army, there are Surgeons who mistake its object, and look to it for supplies which the Government is both willing and able to furnish.

The object of the present article is to set these things in their right light, and to show what the Government can supply, and how those wants can be met, and how and what the Sanitary Commission is ready to do, and also to show the harmonious working of the Sanitary Commission with the Medical Department of the Army.

The Sanitary Commission is merely auxiliary to the Government in meeting the wants of the sick and wounded of the army, at those times and in such places as from the exigences of the case the Government is not prepared to meet. It does not propose either to manage or supply general hospitals in the rear of the army or rear of its basis of supplies, except in extreme or urgent cases. All that can be needed at such places can be had of the Medical Purveyors and Commissaries of Subsistence of the Army, upon proper requisitions, approved by the Medical Directors.

I copy the list of regular supplies for hospitals as they appear on the supply tables, viz.:

Barley, (pearl,) beef, (extract,) cinnamon, cocoa, or chocolate, corn starch, farina, gelatine, ginger, nutmegs, pepper, (black,) porter, sugar, (white,) tea, tapioca, wine and whisky.

This comprises staples articles of light diet, whilst the Commissaries will furnish fruits, (green and dried,) vegetables, oysters, crackers, butter, etc.

At all the principal points these articles can be had in unlimited quantities, and charged to the Hospital Fund.

Medical Purveyors will furnish sheets, pillow cases, counterpanes, mattresses, mosquito bars, pillows, shirts and drawers.

All these things and many others, are within the reach of every Surgeon in charge of hospitals in rear of the army, and an inspection of the Medical Purveyor's and Commissary's stores at this point shows that these departments are fully adequate to the whole army in this Department, and both the Medical Purveyors and Commissaries of Subsistence, state, that they can and do fill every proper requisition made upon them by Surgeons in charge of hospitals. It is a well known fact that every hospital can, by proper management, save a hospital fund sufficient for the purpose of purchasing all that is required over and above the regular ration. So far as hospital clothing is concerned, the Government supplies are all that is needed for the use of the men *while in hospital*.

What then is the work of the Sanitary Commission? I answer; It is intended to furnish what is *needed* as diet or clothing at those times, and at such points as the Government is not prepared to meet.

The exigencies of war, especially when the lines are long, leading to the base of supplies, require all the attention and care of the Government to keep the army supplied with the proper material of war, such as ordnance, quartermaster's and commissary stores.

Here is the work of the Sanitary Com-

mission: By the favor of the Government it is allowed separate transportation, which is accompanied by its own agents, charged with the distribution of its supplies. Since the commencement of the campaign in the South-west there has not been one day in which there has not been either a battle or a heavy skirmish, involving the care of great numbers of sick and wounded men.

The agents of the Sanitary Commission have their supplies with the army, ready to be distributed when needed, and no one who has not been with the army in time of battle can have any conception of the magnitude of the wants which must then be met. Clothing must be provided for the wounded; food and stimulants suitable for wounded men must be on hand.

The Government can only provide the regular ration, and not always even that—but the wounded must be provided for with something beside meat, bread, and coffee. The Sanitary Commission has all that is needed, and the Surgeons have but to ask and their wants will be supplied.

Vegetables, in large quantities, are required both for the sick and the well, or scurvy will decimate the army. The work of the Sanitary Commission is *pre-eminently at the front with the army.*

There are three thousand cars daily running between Nashville and the front. The Sanitary Commission has for many weeks past and is now sending one hundred tons of supplies to the front every week from Nashville, and still the cry is, "send us more." To give one hundred thousand men four ounces of vegetables a day, would require one car and a half each day, or twenty-five thousand pounds.

One peculiarity of the Sanitary Commission is, that it works through and in harmony with the Military and Medical Departments. Its agents are accredited to its Commanding Generals and Medical Directors. It sends no men to give to *this or that* man. It goes to the General and his Medical Director and says, we propose to do thus and so for the sick and wounded. "What do you need? And in no one case has a general or Medical Director turned to them the "cold shoulder." They meet us as friends and tell us what they need. *We give only through the Medical Department.*

We do not know the soldiers of one State from those of another, we only know them as soldiers of the United States, fighting to maintain and restore our beloved Government. We are co-workers with them. Its officers are our friends, and we abundantly acknowledge the kindness with which they greet us in our work.

The constant cry of misappropriation is false. As a class, the Surgeons of the Army are a humane, high-minded, and honorable set of men, working night and day for the good of those under their charge. There are bad men among them, and so there are among the Quartermasters and Commissaries. But will the loyal people of the North say, "We will send no more supplies, because some of them are not properly appropriated." As well might the Government say, "We will send no more stores to the army, because there are dishonest Quartermasters and Commissaries." Rather do as the Government does—search out the bad men, and drive them from the service, and put better men in their places.

In going through the warehouse of the Commission to-day, I counted one hundred barrels of dried apples, three hundred and fifty dozen cans of oysters, and other supplies in proportion. There is no excuse if the hospitals at this and other parts of the rear are not supplied with all they require, for the Government has made ample provision and nothing but carelessness or inefficiency, prevents their being used for the benefit of the soldiers.

In cases where men are being sent through this place, either to the front or the East, and are without clothing, where, as it is often the case, there is not time to make out the proper descriptive rolls, the Sanitary Commission is ready to furnish what is needed. But where there is time so to do, it can be had of the Quartermaster.

The relations of the Sanitary Commission to the Government, the people, and the army, are those of the most perfect kindness that can be desired—and it is believed that it enjoys the full confidence of the Medical Bureau.

BENJ. WOODWARD,
Inspector Sanitary Commission.

SCENES AMONGST THE WOUNDED.

Rev. Mr. Grant writes from Memphis, July 30:

The work continues pretty uniformly the same, varied at distant and irregular intervals by incidents that tend to stir the blood into quicker motion, and more firmly fix in the mind dates for future reference.

On the evening of the 20th, Capt. Way and myself were at the railroad depot, waiting for the train to come in with the wounded from the battle-field of Tupelo. At dark it arrived with its freight of mutilated men, numbering about two hundred and fifty. Some were but slightly wounded, others were dying of the injuries they had received, and a few were already dead. All hands were soon actively engaged. The evening was mild and pleasant, and the first thing to be accomplished was the removal of the sick and wounded from the cars, rendered almost intolerable by the offensive odor arising from the putrefying blood which had flowed from the wounds. The sight was sickening to the strongest heart, but it was no time for the indulgence of squeamishness. In as short a time as possible, all were taken out of the cars, the severely wounded being placed on stretchers, and then gently lifted into the open air. Cool water and a few crackers were very gratefully received by them, and they were greatly needed, for with all the diligence that could be used, it was one o'clock at night before the last one was in hospital. The strangest thing to me was the absence of all impatience and complainings on the part of the wounded. They seemed to think that everything was being done for them that could be, under the circumstances, and were very grateful for the assistance rendered. Some of them manifested indomitable "pluck" to the last.

One poor fellow who had a ball through the body, below the diaphragm, was lying near the door of one of the cars. When the stretcher was placed near him, he raised himself on his elbows and looked up into my face and said, "Doctor, I *can crawl* on to it." "No, lie still." "Jump in, men, and place him on the stretcher. Be careful, gently, gently—there, that will do—now lift him into the open air." Asking him afterwards how he felt, he replied, "better, thank you. You belong to the Sanitary Commission, don't you?"

I wished very much to ask him why he thought so, but others needed immediate attention, and I did not have time to listen to his answer. The next day he was dead. Another had both thighs terribly shattered, and was otherwise severely wounded by a minié ball. He was so very quiet that at first sight he appeared to be dead. Finding him on examination still alive, I moistened his face with water, and gave him a sup of the same, which seemed to revive him. Smiling feebly, he said, "thank you, you are very kind." He was carried by hand to the hospital, being too weak to endure the jolting of the ambulance. In an hour his spirit had thrown off its "mortal coil," and had winged its flight to that "bourne whence no traveler returns."

Many similar scenes could be detailed, but it is not necessary. Those mentioned will serve to show you what your agents often witness.

Since the return of the troops from the expedition to Tupelo, I have visited many of the sick in the regimental hospitals, relieved some of their pressing wants, and, I hope, remedied some defects in their hospital arrangements.

THE SANITARY AND CHRISTIAN COMMISSIONS.

HOPKINTON, MASS., *July* 28, 1864.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY:

DEAR SIR—I have just returned from a protracted tour to the West and Southwest, where I had the satisfaction of observing the operations of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions in those departments, and I had proposed to sum up the results of my observation for the use of any who may desire to know the opinions of different individuals who have been over the ground. But I find that there is little left for me to do, since noticing in the July number of the Sanitary Reporter the extract from a communication of Rev. Dr. Thompson, of New York, who had just preceded me. His opinions so precisely accord with my own, I beg leave to indorse them most

heartily. I was satisfied that both the Sanitary and Christian Commissions had their distinctive and most valuable offices to perform, and that in those departments they were being performed as faithfully as could be expected, considering the imperfections always incident to poor human nature. And with nothing was I more pleased than the practical as well as theoretical harmony between the two great Commissions, for the humane and Christian comfort of our brave and patriotic soldiers.

The good understanding prevailing between the principal officials of these Commissions at Nashville is quite satisfactory to every liberal and generous mind, and it would certainly seem as if there never need be any friction between these two great agencies, which can scarcely be regarded as other than real, though separate departments of the Government itself. Here and there some evil-minded persons may have been found to disparage the one or the other, and perhaps both. It may have been that some soldier, from some unfortunate circumstances, amid the confusion always incident to a battle, may have failed to receive the aid and comfort which would otherwise have been most gladly contributed. But certain it is, the great mass of our suffering men do fully appreciate the charities and self-denying efforts of their fellow-countrymen, and none more than those who are engaged in the service of the Sanitary and Christian Commissions. For if there are any true-hearted, philanthropic, Christian men and women in the land, to be relied on as faithful almoners of a nation's bounties, they are those whom I had the pleasure of meeting in Nashville, Chattanooga, and Huntsville. Their simple object being to do good, both to the bodies and souls of our soldiers, they cannot easily work otherwise than hand in hand, and cheerfully aid one another in their respective spheres of labor; and while we honor the names of Sherman, Rousseau, Hooker, Howard, and others in the field, we can regard with scarcely less respect those of Read, Root, Ewing, Smith, and their coadjutors in the Sanitary and Christian departments of the great work of suppressing rebellion.

Nor are those other benevolent efforts in behalf of the freedmen and poor fugitives less worthy of mention, since they, too, appeal to the most patriotic, humane, and Christian sympathies and principles of the nation. Earnest and faithful men and women are toiling amid countless and gigantic difficulties in behalf of these classes of our fellow-countrymen, whose sufferings are unknown, and can never be told to the great mass of our people. I bespeak for them the continued and increased charities and prayers of every patriot, philanthropist, and Christian.

With the most grateful remembrance of your own personal kindness, I am,

Most respectfully yours,

J. C. Webster.

THE HOSPITAL TRAIN.

How many of my readers ever rode an hour upon the bare floor of a freight car? Would not most of them wait a long time before commencing a journey if this was to be the method of their going? If any of them have had this experience, they understand the difference between it and the soft yielding seat of the passenger coach that only lulls to repose.

And yet the retreating tide of maimed humanity that had dashed in its strength against the rebel strongholds in Georgia, is flowing from the front in just this way. Thousands of men, wounded in all conceivable ways, are coming forward in freight trains, with nothing to rest upon but thin beds of straw, laid upon the bottom of the cars.

It is more than a hundred miles, all day and all night, from the front to Chattanooga. There the wounded men rest, perhaps, for a time in hospitals, and perhaps not. Then on they go a hundred and fifty miles farther, all day and all night long again, to Nashville, and then, those who are able, a hundred and eighty-five miles farther, to Louisville. What a journey this to wear out the strongest man!

This method of transporting the wounded is not peculiar to the Army of the Cumberland, and it must not be inferred that Government is remiss in the cause of its brave defenders. All available means are used to promote their comfort. The best means of transportation at hand are em-

ployed. Surgeons and nurses, with medicines, are sent with the trains. And here steps in the U. S. Sanitary Commission with its labor of love. At appointed stations along the road its agents are ready with coffee, soup, sandwiches, stimulants, fruits, and other supplies in abundance. Thus the rough way is smoothed, and suffering alleviated as much as possible.

But this is not all that is done. There is now established what is properly called the "Hospital Train." It is, indeed, a hospital on wheels. Passenger coaches are procured, the backs removed from the seats, boards are laid along these seats on each side the whole length of the car, and upon these beds are spread, with nice white sheets and pillows, presenting a truly inviting appearance. These trains are furnished with a dispensary and cooking car, nurses, and all the appliances for dressing wounds, all under the care of a surgeon in charge. Besides, we have on board a wardrobe supplied by the U. S. Sanitary Commission, from which the men are furnished with clean shirts and drawers as they need them. Regular meals are served, their wounds dressed, and everything done for the comfort of the suffering soldier that can be devised in a well-regulated hospital. And this care is appreciated. The men often say, "I wish I could ride upon the hospital train until my wound is healed." In describing the hospital train I should have said that, in some of the cars, the seats are entirely removed, and upright standards placed along each side of the passage way, to which stretchers are suspended by rubber bands. By slipping off the rubber bands the stretchers, with the patients upon them, can be readily removed, and thus the wounded easily transferred to hospitals when the train arrives at its destination.

Each of these methods has its advantages, but both, as can easily be seen, are a great improvement upon the hard, jarring, springless box car.

Again, in the freight train there is no communication between the cars, and it is very difficult to give proper attention to the patients while the train is in motion. Is it asked, "Why not use passenger cars altogether?" the answer is, they cannot be procured. There are not enough on these roads that can be spared to supply the demand.

As I sat down to write I was about to head my letter, "*Who'll contribute a car?*" If a few of the railroad companies of the North, who could so easily do it, would send us each one of their easy-going coaches, how speedily could they be fitted for use, and what an amount of suffering might be saved. The farther our army advances into the enemy's country, the more urgent the call for increased means of transportation.

A great part of the credit of establishing and maintaining the hospital train is due to Dr. J. P. Barnum. He has labored since December, 1862, against difficulties that would have worn out a less earnest and unselfish man. He has found a constant helper in the U. S. Sanitary Commission, which has ever been ready to furnish him with supplies for the suffering soldier. The Government have, in this work of mercy, gone hand in hand with the Commission.

But much as the Hospital Train is doing, it is very inadequate to supply the pressing wants of the thousands who are coming forward from the front.

Think, then, anew, friends of the soldier. As you ride on velvet-cushioned seats, yielding with gentle motion to every inequality; as you recline upon beds that offer the perfect luxury of repose, think of the soldier wounded, shattered, in defence of our best privileges, as he is rushed on for hundreds of miles, in rattling, swinging, jarring, springless freight-cars, every motion, almost, of which sends a thrill of pain to limbs that will never tread again the old familiar walks of home—that never will *kneel* again!—to limbs that never can respond again to the warm pressure of friendship's grasp, that never can strike another blow for country or for right—to bodies that still carry the deadly missile that did not quite reach the seat of life—to bruised, aching heads, that must always ache, and to brains from which reason has been suddenly driven by the shock of bursting shell.

What a contribution have these made to the country?

Who'll contribute a car? C. B. W.

SOMEBODY'S DARLING.

Into a ward of the white-washed halls,
Where the dead and dying lay,
Wounded by bayonets, shells, and balls,
Somebody's Darling was borne one day—
Somebody's Darling, so young and so brave,
Wearing yet on his pale, sweet face,
Soon to be hid by the dust of the grave,
The lingering light of his boyhood's grace.

Matted and damp are the curls of gold,
Kissing the snow of the fair young brow,
Pale are the lips of delicate mold—
Somebody's Darling is dying now.
Back from his beautiful blue-veined brow
Brush all the wandering waves of gold;
Cross his hands on his bosom now—
Somebody's Darling is still and cold.

Kiss him once for somebody's sake,
Murmur a prayer both soft and low;
One bright curl from its fair mates take—
They were somebody's pride, you know;
Somebody's hand hath rested there—
Was it a mother's, soft and white?
And have the lips of a sister fair
Been baptized in the waves of light?

God knows best! he has somebody's love;
Somebody's heart enshrined him there;
Somebody wafted his name above,
Night and morn, on the wings of prayer.
Somebody wept when he marched away,
Looking so handsome, brave and grand;
Somebody's kiss on his forehead lay,
Somebody clung to his parting hand.

Somebody's waiting and watching for him—
Yearning to hold him again to her heart;
And there he lies with his blue eyes dim,
And the smiling, child-like lips apart—
Tenderly bury the fair young dead,
Pausing to drop on his grave a tear;
Carve in the wooden slab at his head,
"Somebody's Darling slumbers here."

TAPS.

BY MRS. ROBERT S. HOWLAND.

"*Our* ward fronts on the sea, and the night bugle-music is blown away on the sea-wind, and comes back to us in sweet fragments. It is nine o'clock: the day, full of fear and hope, is ended; and while I write the sick men are all quiet in their little camp-beds. A moment more and the last bugle will sound, signal for silence and darkness. Now it begins, and the notes, rising and falling, say as plainly as music can say anything: 'Put it out; put it—out; put—it——out!'

"It is a clear, golden call, almost a human voice, falling softer and slower to the end; and when well played, lingering a little at the last, like some one very cautiously hushing a baby to sleep," &c.—*Part of a letter from the U. S. Army Hospital.*

Put it out! Put it out! Put it out!
The clear notes rising, climb
A ladder of sweet sound,
And from each golden round
The ascending angels, nearing heaven, do chime,
"God's watch begins, put your dim lanterns out!"

Put out each earthly light;
It is God's shadow falls
Along the darkening walls,
Closing us round, when men say "it is night:"
He draws so near it shuts the daylight out.

Put it out! Put it out! Put it out!
Forbear each scheme of ill;
Good angels walk the ward,
And heaven is all abroad
When twilight falls and earth lies hushed and still;
Room for the angels! Put the dark deeds out.

Put out all thoughts of care:
Rest gently, aching head;
He stands beside the bed,
Who brings in peace and healing, unaware,
And sends soft-footed sleep to shut pain out.

Put it out! Put it out! Put it out!
Put out—quite out—the light.
Hark! as the notes grow faint,
Was that a new-voiced saint
Who climbed with them and scaled the starry height?
Has from among us any soul gone out?

God's love falls as a screen,
Where lights burn dim and pale,
No flickering flame shall fail,
For with His hand held steadfastly between
No wind can blow to put these life-lamps out.

Through earth's long night He waits,
Till to the soul's glad eyes,
Filled with divine surprise
Heaven opens wide her golden morning gates:
Then, day being come, He breathes the candle out.

A SOLDIER'S LETTER.

June 4.—We are at White House; the wounded are pouring in; forty wagons passed us. Here comes a man with his hand shot off. He has walked twelve miles to get his wound properly dressed. He seems to forget it, and with wild excitement shouts, "Grant is the man; he is hell on the fight." The Sanitary Commission is splendid. It is here tending our sick and wounded. Tell the ladies it does more good and relieves more suffering than any one thing in the army. Here comes another wagon train of wounded, every one a hero. Although cut and slashed in every direction, not one of them complains.

June 15.—Have been on forced march for the last four days and nights; one hundred thousand of the army marched with us, and it was terrible to see the men fall out of the ranks by hundreds, unable to move one step farther. One man dropped dead near me. We have been two days on half rations—one day with none.

June 17.—Charged the enemy. Had a terrible enfilading fire against us. Out of the regiment, (only four companies,) in killed, wounded, and missing, lost fifty, only one hundred and fifty going in. In the evening, made another charge, and then engaged the enemy for some time.

June 18.—Tried to take a fort; our regiment sent to the front. First we ran double-quick about one-eighth of a mile to the railroad, through a shower of bullets; rested a moment, climbed the hill near the road; went double-quick twenty yards; rested, and again ran twenty yards to a sort of gully. There we stayed about four hours, fired at continually.

June 21.—Had to be all day in the dust; sun almost scorching us.

June 22.—Worked all night on fortifications. Saw a number of negroes. They are much more intelligent than I supposed, cleanly and brave. They have made the most splendid charges here on record. I have seen them fight right here.

June 28.—So near the enemy can hear them talk. The Sanitary Commission gave each soldier in our brigade a ration of porter, a pickled cabbage and onions to-day. The Christian Commission gave each of us two sheets of paper and two envelopes. Lost my knapsack and every thing in it in the charge, as did the other men.

June 29.—The Sanitary Commission is the greatest thing of the age—to my personal knowledge furnishing our sick boys with tomatoes, pickled cabbage, chocolate, dried apples, corn starch, soft crackers, and everything essential. At work all last night on fortifications.

June 30.—Worked all day cutting trees and carrying them to our pits to make bomb-proof shelter for them, as we expect to be shelled by a fort near us. We live on hard tack.

July 1.—The Sanitary Commission knowing how hard our regiment has been worked, gave each man some pickled tomatoes, preserved chickens, chocolate, lemons, condensed milk, etc. Of course very little to each, but my share made a new person of me.

July 8.—I have been sick, but the doctor got for me, from the Sanitary Commission, farina, corn starch, turkey soup, etc., and built me up. Our regiment, after being in front of rifle pits and under a continual fire for eighteen days, has at last been relieved. When sent back Company A. had eight men and two corporals, and Company D. two men and one corporal fit for duty. You have no idea how much soldiers think of letters. When I ask sick boys how they feel, more than half answer, "Oh! a great deal worse; have not had any letters for a long time." They seem to think that the cause of their illness. The names of the officers who carried muskets for sick or tired soldiers, were Lieut. Col. Pier, of Fond du Lac, Capt. Carpenter, and Lieut. Ballard.

July 17.—The regiment has but twenty-nine men fit for duty. Last night Col. Pier hearing one of the men cough, got up at midnight and brought him a cup of his own sugar. It is what few officers would have done for a private.

July 17.—We drew a number of sanitary stores this afternoon, consisting of pickled onions, condensed milk, tomatoes, etc. I suppose, of course, you know that by sanitary stores we mean provisions given us by the Sanitary Commission.

July 18.—To-day I saw a little negro, (about twelve years old,) busily engaged trying to learn to write. He had a lead-pencil and an old piece of paper, with a copy set him at his request. He is very ambitious to learn, and if you would send him a writing book it would help.

July 19.—Back to our old diet—hard tack and coffee; like it very well indeed. Pound it and fry it like griddle cakes, fry it whole, make fish-balls of it; with coffee and sugar, who can complain?

July 24.—Our regiment at the front again. I am detailed to guard baggage cars at City Point. Drew rations of dried apples, buy five cents' worth of flour, and make pies. If anything ever tasted good, that's it. Shall request soon to be relieved from the detail and join the regiment.

Yours,

W. H. Peckham.

TREATMENT OF OUR PRISONERS BY THE REBEL AUTHORITIES.

I.

Ever since the outbreak of the war, the country has been full of painful rumors concerning the treatment of prisoners of war by the rebel authorities. Every returned prisoner has brought his tale of suffering, astonishing his neighborhood with an account of cruelty and barbarity on the part of the enemy. Innumerable narratives have also been published and widely circulated.

The public have been made very uneasy by these reports. One class have accepted them as true; another have felt them to be exaggerated; still another have pronounced them wholly false, fictions purposely made and scattered abroad to inflame the people against their enemies, and doing great injustice to the South.

REPORTS OF REBEL CRUELTY.

On the other hand, rumors have crossed the border, of an outraged public sentiment in the South, precisely on the same account; reports abounding there of cruelty and barbarity to the rebel soldiers in our hands. It has been repeatedly announced that whatever restrictions or privations have been suffered by Northern men in Southern prisons, were in retaliation for these.

In the beginning of such a prodigious contest as this has proved to be, breaking out in the midst of a people unaccustomed to war, and quite removed from extensive military traditions and examples, it was natural that many irregularities should have occurred, and many usages of warfare been disregarded on both sides; and that in the matter of prisoners especially, where either region was suddenly inundated by many thousands, great abuses should have taken place, until accommodations could be provided and arrangements perfected.

But these early days of ill-preparation have long passed away. The war has lasted more than three years. Both sections have become accustomed to it, and are familiarized with the ideas, habits and laws of military life. The passionate fury of one side and the patriotic indignation of the other, have had time to settle down, at least so far as to accept this condition, and make every civilized provision known in modern warfare, for the mitigation of its horrors and inhumanity.

WRETCHED CONDITION OF THE RETURNED CAPTIVES.

And yet the painful rumors, so rife at the outbreak of the war, instead of subsiding with its early tumult, have lately increased to an extent which has seriously alarmed and aroused the public. The tales of cruelty and suffering have become even more heart-rending. Months ago we heard reports that our men were starving and freezing in the Southern prisons. In the late temporary resumption of the cartel, boatloads of half-naked living skeletons, foul with filth, and covered with vermin, were said to have been landed at Annapolis and Baltimore. Men, diseased and dying, or physically ruined for life, unfit for further military service, had been received in the stead of soldiers of the enemy returned in good condition, and who had been well fed, well clothed, and well sheltered by our government during their captivity.

But many reasons were circulated to account for such a difference. It was alleged that these emaciated men were the victims of camp dysentery, or similar distempers, and of food, which however good in quality and sufficient in quantity, was averse to the Northern constitution. Again it was alleged that the rebel army was, itself, suffering for want of food and clothing, and that the very guards to these prisoners had fared no better.

There were many among us who were willing to credit any statement which would mitigate or excuse the infamy of permitting such a condition of things. For the sake of humanity and the American name, they hoped that the worst could not be proved.

But there were others to whom the proof was sufficient, and who were convinced that the whole was a horrible and pre-determined scheme, contrived for the purpose of depleting our armies, and discouraging our soldiers.

The attention of Congress was roused, and a committee was appointed to investigate this and other alleged barbarities. Their report has just been published.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY.

Before, however, the result of their inquiries was known, the United States Sanitary Commission, as the organ of popular humanity and philanthropy, determined to make an independent investigation, and such a one as would, if possible, put the question at rest on all points upon which the public mind was divided or unsettled, and furnish information so full, and so direct from original sources, that every one could arrive at a just conclusion.

They accordingly appointed the undersigned as a Commission of Inquiry, partly because they were known to be removed from any political affiliations and prejudices, and partly because three of their number were supposed to be professionally competent to read the unerring testimony of nature in the physical condition of the men.

Two distinct departments of evidence were thus opened.

MANNER OF THE INVESTIGATION.

In entering upon their duties the Commissioners had no other wish than to ascertain the truth, and to report the facts as they were. For this they endeavored to collect all the evidence within their reach, and to hear and record all that could be said on every side of the subject. They were accompanied by a United States Commissioner, and in every case the testimony was taken on oath or affirmation before him, or in his absence before other officers equally empowered.

The mass of evidence, printed as an Appendix, was collected during a period of several months, and is now arranged and classified to facilitate the reader's reference. If it had been printed in the order in which it was taken, it would have been too irregular and apparently heterogeneous to have exhibited the total result of the investigation. But, as it now stands, it will be found united and homogenous enough in the tragical story which it tells, without variation or self-contradiction, to the country and to the world.

Much of the evidence, however, is made up of bare abstracts of the free and full conversations that were held with the persons examined, and although all the essential facts are preserved, yet many graphic and pathetic minor details are omitted, which escaped or could not enter the formal record, but sometimes were noted down by those who were present. Besides this, the Commissioners were witnesses themselves, and saw and heard enough to overwhelm them with astonishment, and remove the last doubt from their minds.

For this reason, and that the reader may share with them, so far as can be, the almost dramatic development of the inquiry, they send out these pages, not in the form of a brief documentary report, simply referring to the testimony, but as a descriptive narrative, in which all the salient points of the evidence and the results of their own observation are incorporated together. Such a narrative need be only an intelligible grouping of material—its facts will speak best for themselves.

VISIT TO ANNAPOLIS AND BALTIMORE.

The Commissioners, at the very outset, were brought face to face with the returned captives.

They first visited the two extensive hospitals in Annapolis, occupying the spacious buildings and grounds of the Naval Academy and St. John's College, where over three thousand of them had been brought in every conceivable

form of suffering, direct from the Libby Prison, Belle Isle, and two or three other Southern military stations.*

They also visited the West's Buildings Hospital and the Jarvis General Hospital in Baltimore, where several hundreds had been brought in an equally dreadful condition.

LIVING SKELETONS.

The photographs of these diseased and emaciated men, since so widely circulated, painful as they are, do not, in many respects, adequately represent the sufferers as they then appeared.

The best picture cannot convey the reality, nor create that startling and sickening sensation which is felt at the sight of a human skeleton, with the skin drawn tightly over its skull and ribs and limbs, weakly turning and moving itself, as if still a living man!

And this was the reality.

The same spectacle was often repeated as the visitors went from bed to bed, from ward to ward, and from tent to tent. The bony faces stared out above the counterpanes, watching the passer-by dreamily and indifferently. Here and there lay one, half over upon his face, with his bed clothing only partially dragged over him, deep in sleep or stupor. It was strange to find a Hercules in bones; to see the immense hands and feet of a young giant pendant from limbs thinner than a child's and that could be spanned with the thumb and finger! Equally strange and horrible was it to come upon a man in one part shrivelled to nothing but skin and bone, and in another swollen and misshapen with dropsy or scurvy; or further on, when the surgeon lifted the covering from a poor half unconscious creature, to see the stomach fallen in, deep as a basin, and the bone protruding through a blood-red hole on the hip.

Of course these were the worst cases among those that still survived. Hundreds like them, and worse even than they, had been already laid in their graves.

The remainder were in every gradation of physical condition. Some were able to sit up and to move feebly around their bed; others were well enough to be out of doors; many were met walking about the beautiful grounds of the Naval Academy—by a curious and probably accidental compensation on the part of the Government, swung to this Paradise on the Severn from the sandy little island in James River and its bleak and bitter winds.

EVIDENCES OF MENTAL SUFFERING.

But however unlike and various the cases were, there was one singular element shared by all, and which seemed to refer them to one thing as the common cause and origin of their suffering. It was the peculiar look in every face. The man in Baltimore looked like the man just left in Annapolis. Perhaps it was partly the shaven head, the sunken eyes, the drawn mouth, the pinched and pallid features —partly, doubtless, the grayish blighted skin, rough to the touch as the skin of a shark. But there was something else: an expression in the eyes and countenance of utter desolateness, a look of settled melancholy, as if they had passed through a period of physical and mental agony which had driven the smile from their faces forever. All had it; the man that was met on the grounds, and the man that could not yet raise his head from the pillow.

It was this which arrested the attention of some of the party quite as much as the remarkable phenomenon of so many emaciated and singularly diseased men being gathered together, all, with few exceptions, having been brought from the same prisons in the South.

Every one who was questioned contributed his part to swell the following account of privation, exposure and suffering.

The vail is now to be lifted from two of the nearest and most noted Southern stations for prisoners. There appear, indeed, occasional glimpses of places of captivity in Danville, Virginia, and Andersonville, Georgia, but the chief interest centres upon Libby and Belle Isle, at Richmond.

THE HIGH CLAIM OF THE SOUTHERN PEOPLE.

Before, however, the narrative proceeds, two things must be borne in mind:

First, that we are now penetrating into the arrangements of a people who claim, and have so far maintained their entire independence of the United States Government; who have organized a government of their own; who have also organized immense and powerful armies; who had, in the beginning, so far prepared themselves, and, during the last three years, have so far completed their preparations, as to be able to match, and all but overpower one of the strongest military establishments ever known.

Let them, for the moment, be taken for what they claim to be: "The Confederate States of America," a mighty government, and a "superior race," first in civilization, in culture, and in courage; distinguished for all that is magnanimous, chivalric, humane, hospitable, and noble, for all the graces and refinements, and highest developments of individual and social life.

MODERN TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

Furthermore, another thing must be borne in mind: that, in these days of civilized warfare, the cowardly and barbarous usage no longer prevails of maltreating prisoners of war, but the moment a conflict is over, every sentiment of christianity and humanity rises to mitigate the bloody horrors of the field. The distinction of friend and enemy is no longer known.

The surgeon, with the high sense of professional duty in which he has been educated, goes equally to all. The prisoners taken are not thrown into dungeons, nor shut up in jails, but put into barracks. They are made as comfortable as the arrangements necessary for their safe keeping will permit. They are sheltered, warmed, fed and clothed, in all necessary respects, as well as the soldiers that vanquished and captured them. They become, for the time being, part of the military family of the enemy, and are made subject to the same sanitary and other regulations.

Their barracks are never overcrowded; sufficient area is allowed for exercise and fresh air; so much bathing is permitted, and even insisted upon, for the sake of cleanliness; their food is in every respect the same as that consumed

* The Commissioners would acknowledge the courtesy and hospitality of the accomplished and efficient Surgeon in charge of the Hospital at the Naval Academy, Dr. Vander Kieft, by whom every facility for conducting the inquiry was heartily given.

by the army within whose lines they are; their clothing is all that they need. Such a thing as robbery of their private property is unknown, or never tolerated if known.

TREATMENT OF THE SICK.

When sickness overtakes the prisoner he is removed to the hospital, taken from his bunk and placed upon a bed, and then, whatever distinction existed before vanishes entirely; every kindness and attention, every remedy and delicacy that a sufferer needs, is freely and generously given.

Such is the high principle and noble usage which prevails in modern warfare. The perfection of its arrangements is a matter of pride and honor among soldiers, and the proper boast of every Christian government.

We now turn to the people and government at present waging war with our Government, and who, through a dead lock in the cartel, hold tens of thousands of United States soldiers as prisoners of war.

II.

The first fact developed by the testimony of both officers and privates is that prisoners were almost invariably robbed of everything valuable in their possession, sometimes on the field, at the instant of capture, sometimes by the prison authorities, in a "quasi official way," with the promise of return when exchanged or paroled, but which promise was never fulfilled.* This robbery amounted often to a stripping of the person of even necessary clothing. Blankets and overcoats were almost always taken, and sometimes other articles, in which case damaged ones were returned in their stead.

This preliminary over, the captives were taken to prison.

The Libby, which is best known, though also used as a place of confinement for private soldiers, is generally understood to be the officers' prison.

DESCRIPTION OF LIBBY PRISON.

It is a row of brick buildings, three stories high, situated on the canal, and overlooking the James River, and was formerly a tobacco warehouse. The partitions between the buildings have been pierced with doorways on each story.

The rooms are one hundred feet long by forty feet broad. In six of these rooms, twelve hundred United States officers, of all grades, from the Brigadier General to the Second Lieutenant, were confined for many months; and this was all the space that was allowed them in which to cook, eat, wash, sleep, and take exercise! It seems incredible. Ten feet by two were all that could be claimed by each man—hardly enough to measure his length upon; and even this was further abridged by the room necessarily taken for cooking, washing and clothes-drying.

At one time they were not allowed the use of benches, chairs or stools, nor even to fold their blankets and sit upon them, but those who would rest were obliged to huddle on their haunches, as one of them expresses it, "like so many slaves on the middle passage." After awhile this severe restriction was removed, and they were allowed to make chairs and stools for themselves, out of the barrels and boxes which they had received from the North.

They were overrun with vermin, in spite of every precaution and constant ablutions. Their blankets, which averaged one to a man, and sometimes less, had not been issued by the rebels, but had been procured in different ways; sometimes by purchase, sometimes through the Sanitary Commission. The prisoners had to help themselves from the refuse accumulation of these articles, which having seen similar service before, were often ragged and full of vermin.

THE ROOMS OVERCROWDED.

In these they wrapped themselves at night, and lay down on the hard plank floor in close and stifling contact, "wormed and dovetailed together," as one of them testifies, "like fish in a basket." The floors were recklessly washed late in the afternoon, and were therefore damp and dangerous to sleep upon. Almost every one had a cough in consequence.

There were seventy-five windows in these rooms, all more or less broken, and in winter the cold was intense. Two stoves in a room, with two or three armfuls of wood to each, did not prove sufficient under this exposure, to keep them warm.

The regulations varied at different periods in stringency and severity, and it is difficult to describe the precise condition of things at any one time, but the above comes from two officers, Lieutenant Colonel Farnsworth and Capt. Calhoun. As it happens, they are representatives of the two opposite classes of officers confined in the Libby. The former coming from Connecticut, and influentially connected at the North, was one of a mess to which a great profusion of supplies, and even luxuries, were sent. The latter coming from Kentucky, and being differently situated, was entirely dependent upon the prison fare.

These officers were there during the same season, but never became acquainted. The accounts of each, which will be found in the evidence side by side, are here combined and run together.

From their statements it appears that the hideous discomfort was never lessened by any variation in the rules, but often increased. The prison did not seem to be under any general and uniform army regulations, but the captives were subject to the caprices of Major Turner, the officer in charge, and Richard Turner, inspector of the prison.

GUARDS ALLOWED TO SHOOT THE PRISONERS.

It was among the rules that no one should go within three feet of the windows, a rule which seems to be general in all Southern prisons of this character, and which their frequently crowded state rendered peculiarly severe and difficult to observe. The manner in which the regulation was enforced was unjustifiably and wantonly cruel. Often by accident, or unconsciously, an officer would go near a window, and be instantly shot at without warning. The reports of the sentry's musket were heard almost every day, and frequently a prisoner fell either killed or wounded.

* No instance of the promise being kept appears in the evidence, but there have been occasions reported, though very rare, where money was returned, but even then in depreciated Confederate currency.

It was even worse with a large prison near by, called the Pemberton Buildings, which was crowded with enlisted men. The firing into its windows was a still more common occurrence. The officers had heard as many as fourteen shots fired on a single day. They could see the guards watching for an opportunity to fire, and often, after one of them had discharged his musket, the sergeant of the guard would appear at the door, bringing out a dead or wounded soldier.

INSTANCES OF SHOOTING.

So careless as this were the authorities as to the effect of placing their prisoners in the power of the rude and brutal soldiery on guard. It became a matter of sport among the latter "to shoot a Yankee." They were seen in attitudes of expectation, with guns cocked, watching the windows for a shot. Sometimes they did not even wait for an infraction of the rule. Lieut. Hammond was shot at while in a small boarded inclosure, where there was no window, only an aperture between the boards. The guard caught sight of his hat through this opening, and aiming lower, so as to reach his heart, fired. A nail turned the bullet upward, and it passed through his ear and hat-brim. The officers reported the outrage to Major Turner, who merely replied, "The boys are in want of practice." The sentry said, "He had made a bet that he would kill a damned Yankee before he came off guard." No notice was taken of the occurrence by the authorities.

The brutal fellow, encouraged by this impunity, tried to murder another officer in the same way. Lieutenant Huggins was standing eight feet from the window, in the second story. The top of his hat was visible to the guard, who left his beat, went out into the street, took deliberate aim, and fired. Providentially he was seen, a warning cry was uttered, Huggins stooped, and the bullet buried itself in the beams above.

MURDER OF A PRISONER AT DANVILLE.

Very much the same thing is mentioned as happening to the prison buildings at Danville. A man was standing by the window conversing with private Wilcox. At his feet was the place where he slept at night, close under the window, and where his blanket lay rolled up. He had his hand on the casement. The guard must have seen his shadow, for he was invisible from the regular beat, and went out twenty feet to get a shot at him. Before the poor fellow could be warned, the bullet entered his forehead, and he fell dead at the feet of his companion.

Almost every prisoner had such an incident to tell. Some had been shot at themselves a number of times, and had seen others repeatedly fired upon. One testifies that he had seen five hundred men shot at.

The same brutal style of "sporting" while on guard, seems to have prevailed wherever the license was given by this cruel and unnecessary rule. Captain Calhoun mentions that while he and his companions were on their way to Richmond from Northeastern Georgia, where they were captured, they stopped at Atlanta, and just before they started, a sick soldier who was near the line, beyond which the prisoners were not allowed to go, put his hand over to pluck a bunch of leaves that were not a foot from the boundary. The instant he did so, the guard caught sight of him, fired, and killed him.

Another instance of equal skill in "shooting on the wing," will be noticed in the case of the soldier who only exposed his arm an instant in throwing out some water, and was wounded, fortunately not killed, by the rebel bullet. Something of the same kind was related in the course of conversation, but is not in the evidence, as happening at the Libby, when an officer was shot while waving his hand in farewell to a departing comrade.

But there were cruelties worse than these, because less the result of impulse and recklessness, and because deliberately done. There opens now a part of the narrative which is as amazing as it is unaccountable.

The reader will turn to the heart-rending scenes of famine which the testimony before the Commission has exposed.

FAMINE IN LIBBY.

The daily ration in the officers' quarter of Libby prison, was a small loaf of bread about the size of a man's fist, made of Indian meal. Sometimes it was made from wheat flour, but of variable quality. It weighed a little over half a pound. With it was given a piece of beef weighing two ounces.

SOUTHERN FOOD.

But it is not easy to describe this ration, it was so irregular in kind, quality and amount. Its general character is vividly indicated by a remark made in conversation by one of the officers: "I would gladly," said he, with emphatic sincerity, "*gladly* have preferred the horse-feed in my father's stable."

During the summer and the early part of the fall, the ration seems to have been less insufficient, and less repulsive than it afterwards became. At no period was it enough to support life, at least in health, for a length of time, but however inadequate, it was not so to such a remarkable degree as to produce the evils which afterward ensued.

It was about the middle of last autumn that this process of slow starvation become intolerable, injurious, and cruel to the extent referred to. The corn bread began to be of the roughest and coarsest description. Portions of the cob and husk were often found ground in with the meal. The crust was so thick and hard that the prisoners called it iron-clad. To render the bread eatable, they grated it, and made mush out of it, but the crust they could not grate.

Now and then, after long intervals, often of many weeks, a little meat was given them, perhaps two or three mouthfuls. At a later period, they received a pint of black peas, with some vinegar, every week. The peas were often full of worms, or maggots in a chrysalis state, which, when they made soup, floated on the surface.

DREAMS AND DELUSIONS OF FAMINE.

Those who were entirely dependent on the prison fare, and had no friends at the North to send them boxes of food, began to suffer the horrible agony of craving food, and feeling themselves day by day losing strength. Dreams and delusions began to distract their minds.*

* The very same phenomenon occurred during the

Although many were relieved through the generosity of their more favored fellow prisoners, yet the supply from this source was, of course, inadequate. Captain Calhoun speaks of suffering "a burning sensation on the inside, with a general failing in strength. "I grew so foolish in my mind that I used to blame myself for not eating more when at home." "The subject of food engrossed my entire thoughts." "Captain Stevens having received a box from home, sat down and ate to excess, and died a few hours afterward." "A man had a piece of ham which I looked at for hours, and would have stolen if had had a chance."

One day, by pulling up a plank in the floor, they gained access to the cellar, and found there an abundance of provisions: barrels of the finest wheat flour, potatoes and turnips. Of these they ate ravenously until the theft was discovered.

SUPPLIES SENT FROM THE NORTH WITHHELD.

But the most unaccountable and shameful act of all was yet to come. Shortly after this general diminution of rations, in the month of January last, the boxes, which before had been regularly delivered, and in good order, were withheld. No reason was given. Three hundred arrived every week, and were received by Col. Ould, Commissioner of Exchange, but instead of being distributed, were retained, and piled up in warehouses near by, and in full sight of the tantalized and hungry captives. Three thousand were there when Lieutenant Colonel Farnsworth came away.

There was some show of delivery, however, but in a manner especially heartless. Five or six of the boxes were given during the week. The eager prisoner, expectant perhaps of a wife's or mother's thoughtful provision for him, was called to the door and ordered to spread his blanket, when the open cans, whether containing preserved fruits, condensed milk, tobacco, vegetables, or meats, were thrown promiscuously together, and often ruined by the mingling.

THIEVING OF THE BOXES.

These boxes sometimes contained clothing, as well as food, and their contents were frequently appropriated by prison officials. Lieut. McGinnis recognized his own home-suit of citizen's clothes on one of them, pointing out his name on the watch-pocket.

The officers were permitted to send out and buy articles at extravagant prices, and would find the clothes, stationery, hams and butter which they had purchased, bearing the marks of the Sanitary Commission.

In one instance this constant thievery became an unexpected advantage to the inmates. After the famous "tunnelling out," by which so many effected their escape, the guards confessed that they had seen the fugitives, but supposed that they were their own men stealing the boxes! The tunnel, after running under the street, had its outlet near where the boxes were piled up.

All through the winter and late into the spring was this suffering, chiefly from hunger, prolonged. There is evidence of its continuance even so late as the month of May last.

Surgeon Ferguson, who was confined there at that time, gives a most painful picture of what he saw:

"No one can appreciate, without experience, the condition of the officers in the prison during the twelve days of my stay; their faces were pinched with hunger. I have seen an officer, standing by the window, gnawing a bone like a dog. I asked him, 'What do you do it for?' His reply was, 'It will help fill up.'"

"They were constantly complaining of hunger; there was a sad and insatiable expression of face impossible to describe."

There is no suffering that can be mentioned greater than that of the slow and lingering pains of famine, except it be perhaps the agonies of absolute death from hunger—but of this no Libby evidence was collected. The description of Libby life might therefore end at this point so far as having reached the climax of all possible misery on the one hand and of all possible barbarity on the other. But the testimony develops still other instances of cruelty which may as well be introduced here, in order to show the animus of the Confederate authorities.

CRUEL PUNISHMENTS.

It is stated that for offences, whether trivial or serious, the prisoners were consigned to cells beneath the prison, the walls of which were damp, green and slimy. These apartments were never warmed, and often so crowded that some were obliged to stand up all night. It was in these dungeons that the hostages were placed.

DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD.

But the inhumanity was not confined to the living. It extended even to the disposal of the dead. The bodies were placed in the cellar, to which the animals of the street had access, and very often were partly devoured by hogs, dogs and rats. The officers had the curiosity to mark the coffins in which they were carried off, to find out whether they were buried in them. But they proved to be only vehicles for bearing them away, returning a score of times for others.

This must have been the case with privates only, who occupied part of the prison, as it is mentioned that the officers generally secured by contributions, made up among themselves, me-

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celebrated Darien Exploring Expedition, under Lieut. Strain, some years ago. The whole party suffered starvation; a number of them died, and the remainder were rescued when they had become emaciated and debilitated nearly to the point of death.

"From the time that food became scarce to the close, and just in proportion as famine increased, they revelled in gorgeous dinners. Truxton and Maury would pass hours in spreading tables loaded with every luxury. Over this imaginary feast they would gloat with the pleasure of a gourmand."—*Darien Explor. Exped., Harp. Monthly*, vol. x., p. 613.

The party separated, Strain and Avery being the least exhausted, and going on before the others to obtain succor if possible.

"At length starvation produced the same singular effect on them that it did on Truxton and Maury, and they would spend hours in describing all the good dinners they had ever eaten. For the last two or three days, when most reduced, Strain said that he occupied almost the whole time in arranging a magnificent dinner. Every luxury or curious dish that he had ever seen or heard of composed it, and he wore away the hours in going round his imaginary table, arranging and changing the several dishes. He could not force his mind from the contemplation of this, so wholly had one-idea—food—taken possession of it."—*Darien Explor. Exped., Harp. Monthly*, vol. x., p. 750.

tallic coffins and a decent temporary deposit in a vault for those of their number who died, until they could be removed to the North.

One other incident may be noticed which is quite in keeping with all the rest, but without the foregoing catalogue of outrages to humanity would appear too shocking to be credible.

THE MINING OF LIBBY.

At the time Kilpatrick made his nearly successful raid on Richmond, the city was thrown into a panic by his approach, and the prison officials deliberately prepared—so the story runs—a more expeditious way of closing the career of their prisoners. It was somewhat more merciful than starvation, because it substituted instantaneous death for an endless agony of dying. The negroes gave the first intimation to the captives of what was going on.* Richard Turner took care to dash the hopes of his captives as well as add to their anxiety, by informing them that "Should Kilpatrick succeed in entering Richmond, it would not help them, as the prison authorities would blow up the prison and all its inmates." Lieutenant Latouche was overheard observing to a rebel officer with whom he had entered the cellar where the two hundred pounds of powder were said to be placed, "There is enough there to send every damned Yankee to hell." Turner himself said, in the presence of Colonel Farnsworth, in answer to the question, "Was the prison mined?" "Yes, and I would have blown you all to Hades before I would have suffered you to be rescued." The remark of Bishop Johns is corroborative as well as curious, in reply to the question, "Whether it was a Christian mode of warfare to blow up defenceless prisoners!" "I suppose the authorities are satisfied on that point, though I do not mean to justify it."

The idea is so monstrously shocking that the mind hesitates to grasp it, or believe it. Many will try to see in it only a menace to deter any further attempt to take Richmond by a raid. And yet the evidence, even if it does come by rebel admissions, has an air of diabolical sincerity. A remark of Turner's justifying the act, which was mentioned to one of the Commissioners, but accidentally omitted in the formal testimony, gives quite a decided turn to the very natural probability that the fiendish plan was resolved upon: "Suppose Kilpatrick should have got in here, what would my life have been worth after you all got loose. Yes, I would have blown you all to Hades before I would have suffered you to be rescued." This was his argument and self-justification in brief, though somewhat more at length at the time.

The act was altogether consistent with the characters of the three men who had authority over the prison—General Winder, the Commander of the Department, Major Turner, Commander of the Prison, whose brutality is fully illustrated by his management of it, and Richard Turner, Inspector of the Prison, by occupation a negro-whipper, (see the testimony of Colonel Farnsworth,) and whose savage nature vented itself in frequent acts of personal insult and physical violence toward the prisoners.

Be the story true or false, it is at any rate consummately befitting and consistent, inasmuch as the strongest reasons for its probability may be derived from the other facts that have now been narrated. If true, it is strongly corroborative of the vindictive purpose which animates the Confederate authorities. History may yet write it so, and therefore the Commissioners do not pass it over in silence because of any doubt that may cling to it.

Let the spectacle that probably came so near taking place, be at least the appropriate crown and close of this portion of the narrative; the Union raiders, bounding over the fortifications of Richmond, intent upon rescuing their companions from a captivity worse than death—and the three great brick buildings lifted bodily into the air and let down in one stupendous crush and ruin upon the living forms of twelve hundred helpless men.

* "Dug big hole down dar, massa. Torpedo in dar, sure!"

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☞ Soldiers' Aid Societies, clergymen, editors, and others, can scarcely serve the cause of humanity more effectually than by frequently and widely disseminating a knowledge of the above, among those who have friends in the army.

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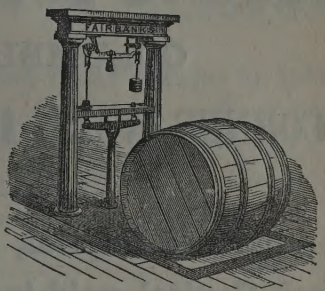

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OFFICE OF THE

MORRIS

FIRE AND INLAND

INSURANCE CO.,

COLUMBIAN BUILDING,

CORNER WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

Authorized Capital, - - - $5,000,000

Cash Capital, paid in, - - - $200,000

This Company issues on the most favorable terms, Policies of Insurance,

With or without Participation in Profits,

against loss or damage by fire, on Dwelling Houses, Stores, and all kinds of Buildings, and on Household Furniture and other Property, and on Vessels and their Cargoes, while lying in Port.

Losses will be Promptly Adjusted and Paid.

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GEORGE MILN,	FRED. H. BRADLEE,	JOSEPH MORRISON,	CHARLES HICKOX,
J. C. MORRIS,	EDWARD C. BATES,	DAN'L W. TELLER,	N. O. NIMS.
ROB'T BOWNE,	WILLIAM MACKAY,		

B. C. MORRIS, Pres't.

WM. M. WHITNEY, ec'y.

OFFICE OF THE

Columbian (Marine) Insurance

COMPANY,

CORNER OF WALL AND NASSAU STREETS.

CASH CAPITAL, - - - $1,000,000.

From Statement for the Sixth Fiscal Year, ending December 31, 1863.

Total Amount of Assets, January 1, 1864	$3,140,930 80
Total Amount of Premiums	3,252,256 76
Excess of Earned Premiums over Losses, &c.	1,137,063 33
Reserve for Estimate Claims Unadjusted and other Contingencies	441,206 49
Guaranteed Cash Dividend to Dealers, (holding certificates of same) on Paid Premiums Earned during the Year, whether Loss has Accrued or not	269,614 80
Scrip Dividend to Dealers, on Earned Premiums	15 per cent.
Dividend for the Year to Stockholders	26 per cent.

LOSSES PAID IN GOLD upon Risks on which the Premium is paid in like Currency.

DEALERS WITH THIS COMPANY will be allowed the option (to be signified at the time of application for insurance) of receiving in lieu of scrip, at the end of each year, RETURNS IN CASH, (guaranteed by certificate) of premiums paid and earned during the year, whether loss accrues or not, upon all new risks under the NEW YORK FORM OF POLICY, as follows:

1st. Upon all VOYAGE Risks upon CARGO, a return of TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

2d. Upon VOYAGE Risks upon FREIGHT, a return of TWENTY PER CENT.

3d. Upon TIME Risks upon FREIGHT, and upon VOYAGE and TIME Risks upon HULLS, a return of TEN PER CENT.

Such privilege, however, being confined to persons and firms, the aggregate of whose premiums upon such policies earned and paid during the year, shall amount to the sum of one hundred dollars.

DIRECTORS.

EDWARD ROWE,	M. F. MERICK,	MOSES MERICK,
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